



North Tyneside Council

North Tyneside Council  
Quadrant  
The Silverlink North  
Cobalt Business Park  
North Tyneside  
NE27 0BY

23 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: COVID-19 and short term measures recommended in schools from 1 November**

We wrote to parents and carers on 21 October outlining recommendations for a range of short term measures in schools in North Tyneside from 1 November in response to the high rates of COVID-19 across the borough.

We reviewed the need for these measures on 12<sup>th</sup> November with head teachers and a decision was made to leave them in place, with agreement to review them again this week.

As the COVID-19 rates have declined dramatically in North Tyneside over the last 3 weeks and are in broadly in line with the national and regional rates, including the rates for young people and as the vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds is well underway, we are no longer recommending the continuation of these measures across schools in North Tyneside.

With immediate effect we are no longer recommending the routine use of face coverings for all staff or pupils in secondary schools or daily LFT testing for adults or secondary age school pupils who are a household contacts. Also the additional caution recommended in considering educational visits, residential trips, events and open days is no longer required.

However the usual infection prevention and control measures in all schools remain important together with, encouraging twice weekly asymptomatic testing for all staff and secondary school pupils and advice for all contacts of a positive case to get a free PCR test.

If you or your child develop symptoms of COVID-19, please book a free NHS test as soon as possible ([www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)). You can also phone 119. Most importantly stay at home until it is time to take your test.

Thank you once again for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in continuing to support schools during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Burke  
Director of Public Health

Diane Buckle  
Assistant Director of Education