

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the last couple of weeks, we have seen a significant increase in cases of coronavirus including the variant of concern (Delta) here in Blackpool. This variant is more transmissible, meaning it spreads from person to person much more easily and quicker.

As we know, school is a key part of a child's life and is vital for educational progress, wellbeing and wider development. With this in mind, some schools may be introducing enhanced measures where needed to ensure both pupil and teacher safety and help children to remain safely in the classroom, getting the best education experience possible. You may see that schools are introducing extra safety measures during end of term activities such as sports days.

With case rates rising, it is really important everyone connected to school life – children, parents and teaching staff do all they can to support and follow protective safety measures in place.

I want to make a personal plea to you, that everyone continues to play their part by:

- Ensuring students and families at home are testing regularly (twice a week). 1 in 3 people have COVID-19 without any symptoms so this is helpful to stop the spread of infection unknowingly.
- Keeping their distance at school drop-offs and pickups.
- Wearing a face covering where required and I've asked Schools to consider re-introducing this measure for pupils in secondary schools including in the classroom whilst case rates remain high.
- Practicing good hand hygiene.
- Getting a PCR (lab) test if you have symptoms of COVID-19. If you are unsure about your symptoms it's better to get tested than not.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 it's important that you self-isolate and this means staying at home and not going out to meet friends and family.
- Meeting up with others outdoors rather than indoors where possible.
- Getting vaccinated when invited and remembering to get your 2nd dose too.



I completely appreciate restrictions have been in place for some time now, it is so important to continue moving forward with the progress we have made so far, and I ask you - parents/guardians to continue to take precautions for a little while longer. This will help to break the chain of transmission, drive those rates down and help to keep children in the classroom to learn, develop and have fun, safely.

Thank you for doing all you are doing and have done so far. Let's all continue to work together, keep school safe and get back to some normality.

Yours sincerely



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