

## **Advice to All Parents/Carers on Return to school**

### **Trafford Authority**

We hope that you have managed to enjoy some rest over the summer holidays and we are very much looking forward to welcoming children back into school. Last academic year was unprecedented for us and, whilst the changes we had in place were necessary to control the spread of the virus, we appreciate that they caused disruption to children.

You will be aware that guidance from the government has changed since 16<sup>th</sup> August, so the way positive cases of COVID-19 will be handled in schools will change from September.

Schools will continue to ensure confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not attend until the end of their self-isolation period. Contact tracing will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace so the correct advice can be offered to contacts. Any contacts aged under 18 years and 6 months will be exempt from isolation; however, in order to prevent avoidable spread in schools we will still need your support with the following:

- If your child/ward is identified as a contact please consider the following actions:
  - Book them in to take a PCR test as soon as possible (unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days). Children aged 4 years and under who are identified as a contact will not be advised to take a PCR test unless the positive case was someone in their own household.
  - Where possible, limit contacts outside of school.
  - Take regular asymptomatic LFD tests twice weekly (recommended for 11 years and over).
  - If your child/ward travels to school on public transport, a face covering should be worn on the journey.

This advice applies until 10 full days after your most recent contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- If your child/ward develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home. They must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

### **ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING (testing without any Covid symptoms)**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. As students may have mixed with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the government has recommended all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site LFD (lateral flow device) tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

We strongly encourage parents to support their children to access this important test to help keep themselves and their friends protected from Covid. There are new types of test available which school-aged children will be using, so this is an ideal time to make sure that students know how to use the new tests, and a great opportunity for them to refresh their skills in testing, especially if they have had a break from testing over the summer holiday.

## **SYMPTOMATIC TESTING AND TESTING FOR CLOSE CONTACTS**

You can book a PCR test either online (by going here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) or by calling 119. There are sites in Stretford, Partington, and Trafford Park, plus some larger drive through sites a little further afield at Manchester Airport and the Etihad Stadium. The closest available site will be shown to you when booking. Sometimes the closest site does not show up, so if all the sites shown are a long distance away we recommend trying again in an hour or so. Alternatively, you can order a PCR test direct to your home and post it back.

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

#### *Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>
- get vaccinated if eligible.

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We understand how challenging the past year has been and we would like to thank you for supporting school. We look forward to children returning to school next week.