

Calderdale Council
Town Hall
Crossley Street
Halifax
HX1 1UJ

26th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19 measures in schools

With changes to national guidance taking effect from Thursday 27th January, we're writing to update you on what this means for COVID measures and your children. It's been a difficult time for many parents since the start of term. Today, there are more than 180 COVID-19 outbreaks in Calderdale schools and early years settings. This is more than at any other time in the pandemic. We understand the impact this must be having on you, your children and your families, with many children in Calderdale catching COVID-19 in recent weeks and sometimes not for the first time.

Nationally and locally, we are now in a 'living with COVID' phase of the pandemic. Living with COVID doesn't mean ignoring it, and the pandemic is certainly not over. We encourage you to continue doing all you can to keep your child and family as safe as you have done throughout the pandemic. In particular, it is important to remember that:

- Anyone with any of the three main COVID symptoms (temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in sense or taste or smell) should have a PCR test. Do not rely on the results of a lateral flow test, as these don't always pick up infection.
- Anyone aged 5+ who has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 should take lateral flow tests for 7 days. If they themselves have recently had COVID-19, we advise that they wait for 28 days from the initial positive test before starting lateral flow tests again. They should though have a PCR test if they develop new symptoms.

If your school has an outbreak of COVID-19 they may still contact you to advise your child could have been a contact. They may also instigate additional measures such as the use of face coverings for a period of time, acting on public health advice. Please do support them with any measures they put in place to protect children and staff in the setting.

Once again, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for all you are doing to support schools by testing your children in line with national guidance and keeping them at home if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

Kind regards,



Deborah Harkins
Director of Public Health



Julie Jenkins
Director of Children and Young People's Services