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Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19: Managing Positive Cases

It has been wonderful to welcome children and young people back to school after the summer holiday period. It has been a busy start to the new term and our children and young people seem glad to be back into the routine of school and back amongst friends.

You will be aware that arrangements for managing positive cases of COVID-19 have changed this term and I thought it would be helpful to clarify arrangements.

When a positive case is identified in a school, Public Health ask that we issue a 'warn and inform' letter to parents and carers of those in the class or year group. Test and Protect colleagues then work with the family of the positive case to determine if any individuals have had particularly close contact with the positive case in keeping with the national return to school guidance. Test and Protect colleagues contact those identified by the positive case and provide personalised advice based on the individual circumstances. In many cases the advice is to self-isolate and request a PCR test, but this does depend on circumstances.

This is a very different approach from the one used last term and in real terms means that we are no longer asking large groups of children and young people to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. This is a significant change, and we ask that you all continue to remain vigilant for symptoms to help us keep any risks as low as possible.

A number of schools have issued 'warn and inform' letters already this term and some parents and carers are understandably seeking some reassurance from schools. I can confirm that school staff are carefully following the procedure set out in the national guidance and school teams can access support from Public Health readily. Public Health colleagues continue to gather evidence on the source of any transmission. Public Health colleagues continue to reassure me that there is no evidence of transmission in school. Sadly, the rise in the number of cases in schools are as a direct result of community transmission.

We continue to thank you for your support in helping to keep our school communities safe and I want to assure you that the safety of our schools remains a key priority. I continue to meet with Public Health colleagues regularly to review arrangements as we all recognise that this is a very dynamic situation. Please be assured that we will continue to keep you up to date of any changes shared with us.

Yours faithfully



Vincent A Docherty
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