

16 June 2021

Delta variant and latest Government announcement

Firstly, we want to thank you for all you are doing to play your part and help protect your school community and Luton as a whole – you're all doing a fantastic job but as you know we cannot relax our approach just yet. As we head towards the end of the academic year, we are asking for your continued support to work together to reduce the number of cases in our education settings and make sure fewer children will need to learn remotely.

We're now at a crucial time in our fight against coronavirus. In line with Mondays Government announcement we're asking everyone to keep their focus and continue the good habits we have created – Covid is still here.

There are simple things you can do right now to continue to protect yourself, your family and your school community:

Remember hands, face, space, fresh air – each school may have different rules around face coverings, but everyone aged over 11 should be wearing a face covering when in indoor venues. If you can, still meet outside.

Testing – students in year 7 and above are being provided with a free, regular supply of rapid tests and they should continue to take these twice a week. Parents and carers of children in nursery, school or college should also take regular rapid tests along with the rest of the community, by doing this we can all help to reduce the spread of the virus. We are asking Luton to create a habit of testing every Sunday and Wednesday evening, and results must be reported to your school and to test and trace

You can find your nearest collection site or order online at https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Health_and_social_care/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus-testing.aspx

Vaccination – please get your vaccine once you are invited to, this is a vital tool in our defence against Coronavirus. Luton also has a number of Walk In opportunities and there are planned pop-up vaccination opportunities coming soon.

If you or your child/ren receive a positive result from a rapid test you must begin self-isolating immediately, not attend school and book a confirmatory PCR test.

If you or your child/ren have symptoms (**new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell or a temperature**) you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. **Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell – be cautious.**

If you need help to self-isolate financial support is available and we're working with colleagues at Luton Council to ensure that it's even easier for a parent or guardian to receive a support payment. Please have a look here to see if you are eligible https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Health_and_social_care/coronavirus/Pages/I-need-financial-support.aspx

We know none of this is easy and you are fatigued, but if we do our very best to protect schools, we can all look forward to the summer holidays we're hoping for.

Thank you again for helping to keep yourselves and your community safe.

Public Health, Luton Council.