

Dear parent/carer,

You will no doubt be aware that cases of COVID-19 are increasing in Dudley borough. Additional restrictions have now been announced nationally and locally restrictions already prevent residents in Birmingham, Sandwell, Solihull and Wolverhampton having any contact between households.

We are calling on everyone to play their part to protect themselves, friends, family and Dudley borough, please remember:

- Regular hand washing is still vital
- Keep a safe distance from others (2 metres where possible)
- Continue to limit your contact with other people
- Wear face coverings over your nose and mouth to protect yourself and others
- Remember **HANDS, FACE, SPACE**

Residents are also being advised to stay apart as much as possible to reduce household transmission, which has been identified as one of the main causes in our region for the increase in cases.

Face coverings

Due to the increase in cases, we are strongly advising the use of face coverings for parents, carers, visitors and staff in all public areas of school. This includes when dropping off and collecting children. Some schools in our neighbouring boroughs are already doing this.

Symptoms and testing

Please do not send children to school if they or any member of your household is displaying symptoms - a fever or new continuous cough or a change in or loss of taste and smell – stay at home and book a test for the symptomatic person.

Only people who have one or more of the three COVID symptoms should book a test. Please persevere in accessing the national website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling 119 for an appointment at a local test centre or a home test. Guidance on isolating should be followed until a test is taken and a result is received.

If your child is currently symptomatic or has had symptoms and is unable to get a test they must complete the ten-day isolation period and must not return to school. Everyone else in the household should isolate for 14-days.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit www.dudley.gov.uk/coronavirus for useful information and practical guidance.

Thank you for your continued support and playing your part to protect Dudley borough.



Bal Kaur
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing