

# Alderbrook School

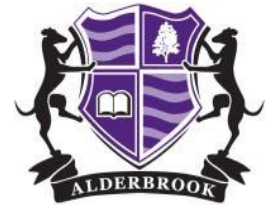
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20 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last week we have seen that cases of COVID-19 in Solihull have been increasing, particularly amongst school aged children. Local schools around us have experienced a high number of cases and have had to close year groups to avoid transmission between students.

I have been in close liaison with secondary school leaders in the borough as well as with the Local Health Protection team. With just over four full weeks of school remaining before the summer holidays, we are keen to avoid an outbreak at Alderbrook. I am particularly keen to avoid having to ask students to revert to remote learning or self-isolation as we move towards the summer holidays, as I know that many of you have planned much-needed holidays and time with your friends and family. Therefore, having reviewed our most recent risk assessment, I am writing to you with some key reminders and to inform you of some additional preventative measures we will be taking to try and reduce the risk to our school community. I hope that adopting a proactive approach will allow us to continue to run the school as 'normally' as possible during the final weeks of the summer term.

## Face coverings

The guidance to schools includes the advice that *"the reintroduction of face coverings for staff and those in year 7, or equivalent, and above may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern"*.

The Local Authority have applied to the Department for Health and Social Care to reintroduce face coverings in Solihull Schools. Whilst this is not yet confirmed, I am recommending that students wear face coverings in all indoor areas, including classrooms, from Monday 21 June. Students coped admirably with this requirement on their return to school in March and, whilst obviously not ideal, we are sure that students will quickly adapt to this again. As previously, students who are exempt will be given a card that they should keep on their person.

## Testing

Testing remains the most effective way of finding and isolating cases to try and prevent transmission. We are asking that you continue to test using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) twice weekly (Sunday morning and Wednesday evening). Test results should be reported to the NHS and all positive results must be reported via the dedicated email address, [covidpositive@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:covidpositive@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk).

## Symptoms and self-isolation

Many of the local cases have been identified as the Delta variant of the virus. Information from local schools would indicate that the symptoms students are experiencing are not necessarily the ones we have been asking you to be vigilant to:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough

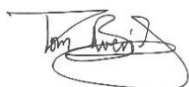
- loss of sense of taste or smell

Whilst Solihull and National advice remains clear that these symptoms are the ones that would trigger isolation and booking a PCR test, you may also want to be mindful that **headaches, runny noses and sore throats** may also be symptoms of concern. We hope that by sharing this local knowledge with you, we may be able to work together to avoid any in school transmission.

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do email [office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk) and we will do our best to answer these as promptly as we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Tom Beveridge**  
Headteacher