14 June 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I'm writing to let you know, there has been a positive COVID-19 case in your school, this person is now isolating. The case has been linked with a 'variant of concern' and there is evidence that it spreads more easily than the most common strain in the UK. However, there is currently no evidence that it causes more severe illness, increased risk of mortality or makes the current vaccinesany less effective.

I would like to take time to reassure you that we have taken all necessary actions since hearing thisinformation to keep all children at our school as safe as possible. The children and staff who were direct or close contacts of the case, are already self-isolating for 10 days, have been asked to PCR test and the school has been cleaned appropriately.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading
It is important that everyone is aware that although Liverpool is opening up, we still need to be verycautious about the risk of Covid-19, especially in light of the new variant. There are things you still need to do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

· It's important you get vaccinated when it's your turn
· wear face coverings at school drop off and pick up
· wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
· use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
· wash your hands as soon as you get home
· cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
· put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Anyone with no Covid-19 symptoms can get tested twice a week. You can opt to:

• have a supervised test at a test centre - https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/symptom-free-testing/
• pick up home test kits at a test centre or at a local pharmacy, or
• order online at: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

If you feel unwell
If you are unwell, get a PCR test. To book a PCR test, call 119 for free or book online at:
https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19):

· new continuous cough and/or
· high temperature and/or
· a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms,you can seek advice from NHS 111 at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/or by phoning 119.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Ashton
Director of Public Health