



## Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub Children Services

Date: 14 October 2021  
Our Ref: STG/  
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### Re: Recommended controls to manage COVID-19 transmission

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to let you know that from Monday 18 October we are advising education settings in Walsall to consider re-introducing COVID-19 secure measures.

#### For secondary schools, sixth form and colleges this includes;

- Consider re-introducing year group bubbles
- All staff, visitors and all pupils aged over 12 to wear a face covering in all communal areas [unless exempt](#). This includes when moving between classrooms and when in the Dining Hall (except when eating and drinking).
- Staff to teach from the front with a 2m distance
- No all staff meetings
- All non-essential events where parents / carers visit schools are moved to virtual
- Consider risk and benefit of external visitors
- Consider COVID-19 management for PE lessons and changing
- Consider staggering lunch and start and finish times
- Ensure any visits out of school are to COVID-secure premises
- Staff and Pupils to test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so
- Consider other COVID-secure controls that were used in the last academic year
- Promote vaccination to staff and eligible pupils not yet fully vaccinated and boosters as staff become eligible

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to remain high in Walsall, with a gradual weekly increase during the past month. The majority of positive cases are currently in school aged children and young people.

We hope you will understand and support the need for caution at this time. We have taken this decision to ensure that we are providing both pupils and staff with a further layer of protection.

**Your school will share any changes with you via their normal communication channels. As soon as the number of positive cases school reduces, these measures will be stepped down again.**

#### How you can help

- To keep education and family life moving in Walsall, here are some practical things you can do:  
Keep your child off school and book a PCR test if they have COVID symptoms - high temperature, continuous cough, loss or change to taste or smell) - regardless of how



mild. Do not use a lateral flow test and instead book your PCR test online via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119.

- Carry out twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home (children aged 12+ only).
- Book a PCR test for everyone in your household if one member tests positive
- Follow hands-face-space and fresh air. Try to meet outdoors where possible, or if indoors, open windows, wear a face covering in crowded places and wash your hands regularly.

Even if you have had your COVID-19 vaccinations, by making the above part of your routine, you will be helping your school community to continue doing the things they enjoy and help stop the virus spreading.

Whilst the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is low for children and young people, it is important that we take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down and minimise further disruption to education.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Stephen Gunther

Director of Public Health

Sharon Kelly

Director Access and Inclusion

The infographic is a blue and white graphic with the NHS logo and HM Government branding. It features a title 'COVID-19 Response: Autumn 2021' and a key message: 'The country is learning to live with COVID-19, and the main line of defence is vaccination.' Below this, it lists 'Safer behaviours and actions' with seven icons and corresponding text: 1. 'Get vaccinated' (vaccine icon), 2. 'Meeting outdoors is safer. If you meet indoors, let fresh air in' (open window icon), 3. 'Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet' (mask icon), 4. 'Get tested, and self isolate if required' (test tube icon), 5. 'Try to stay at home if you are unwell' (bed icon), 6. 'Wash your hands' (handwashing icon), and 7. 'Download and use the NHS COVID-19 App' (smartphone icon). A footer button says 'For more information, visit gov.uk'.

HM Government **NHS**

## COVID-19 Response: Autumn 2021

The country is learning to live with COVID-19, and the main line of defence is vaccination.

The following safer behaviours and actions are practical steps you can take to help protect yourself and others.

### Safer behaviours and actions

- Get vaccinated**
- Meeting outdoors is safer. If you meet indoors, let fresh air in**
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet**
- Get tested, and self isolate if required**
- Try to stay at home if you are unwell**
- Wash your hands**
- Download and use the NHS COVID-19 App**

For more information, visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)