

17 June 2021

Dear parent/carer,

The government has identified Kirklees as one of the areas where the Covid-19 Delta variant, first identified in India, is spreading the fastest.

A huge amount of work continues to take place as we all aim to reduce the spread of Covid-19. As part of this, the council is working very closely with local schools and colleges to keep students, staff, families and local communities as safe as possible.

In recent weeks, it has become clear that many schools with secondary-age children, along with colleges, have preferred to continue using face coverings. In line with government guidance, the council is advising that – due to the current infection rates – we support them in making this decision for their setting. A face covering greatly reduces the distance our breath can travel, which is one of the most effective ways to protect everyone.

Kirklees is one of many areas around the country to offer this advice to its schools and colleges. All settings hold detailed risk assessments for Covid-19 and they know their own environments better than anyone else. Their decisions may include face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms.

At an extremely difficult time, all of our settings are balancing education, high standards of care and the need to cut infection rates in our district. Thank you for supporting your school and college with the measures they are taking.

The advice on face coverings is being kept under review and is just one of the measures that will help to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Other ways we can all play our part include:

- Ensure you get the vaccination. Vaccines are the best way out of this pandemic and provide strong protection against Covid-19.
- Ensure you and your child take twice-weekly home tests and report the results to NHS Test and Trace

- Isolate fully, keeping yourself away from other people, when you are required to do so
- Keep up to date with the [latest news on surge testing](#) and [pop-up vaccination clinics](#) in Kirklees
- Follow all of the latest government guidelines, which can be found on [the council website](#) and are updated whenever there is a change.
- Remember: Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air

You can also find [information in different languages](#).

Thank you for playing your part in reducing the spread of the virus. Our priority is to keep children, young people, families and communities safe and well, bringing down infection rates as quickly as possible for everyone in Kirklees.

Yours sincerely,



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