



FAO: Parents & Carers of Students at Denton Community College

RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

Following on from the recent letters sent by Mr Rule, I am writing to ask for your continued support when it comes to managing the risks posed by Covid-19.

Over the past week, we have seen a spike in the number of Covid-19 cases. This is inevitable when cases are rising locally and nationally, particularly as the Delta variant is so much more contagious. I would just like to take a moment to highlight a few key things we can all do to help:

Please do not send your child into school if they have displayed any of the main symptoms, even if you think it may just be a cold or they seem better in the morning. If your child shows any of the main symptoms, we ask you book a PCR test and all members of the household must isolate whilst you await the result.

As before the Covid-19 symptoms are still a new persistent cough, a temperature, a change in sense of smell or taste. As well as the classic symptoms, the cough now seems to come with headaches, runny noses and hayfever type symptoms.

Please do not take and rely on a Lateral Flow Test if your child has symptoms. LFTs are only effective at picking up people who are positive but have no symptoms. If someone has symptoms then please book a PCR test. If you are taking Lateral Flow Tests at home, please make sure they are not done until at least 30 minutes after food or drink has been consumed. If you do them within 30 minutes, it can lead to a false positive result, the knock on effect of this are that the family members and close contacts will have to self-isolate, which may be unnecessary.

Please ensure your child comes to school with a face covering. We are giving out a significant number as students arrive, which means they are not using them on the journey to school. This is particularly important if they use public transport. Please talk to your child about the importance of social-distancing and common sense when they are with their friends, both in and outside of school.

If your child is sent home to isolate, please ensure they complete the work that is set for them by their teachers. This is all available on Google Classroom. We know that students have missed significant chunks of learning already and we want them to keep up with their curriculum content.

There is now some financial support available for families who have to self-isolate. Information about this is in the letter that is brought home when a child has to isolate

If your child is sent home to isolate, please ensure they stay at home. If they do not isolate and instead meet up with their friends it increases the chances of the virus continuing to spread. I realise how difficult and frustrating it is when you have to isolate, but it is a key way to stop numbers increasing.

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

The months of the pandemic have been very difficult for young people and it is perfectly understandable that they want to get back to what their lives should be, we all do. However, at the moment we still need to show caution as the risk of infections spreading within school and the wider community remain as high as ever. This new variant is particularly common in school-age children and is even more easily passed on. Sending students home to isolate is something we all wish to avoid and we thank you for your ongoing support not only in the education of the young people of Denton but also the safety and wellbeing of all our stakeholders.

Finally, if you wish to book a vaccination for anyone in your household over the age of 18 please follow the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Yours sincerely

D Cumming

Donald Cumming
Deputy Headteacher