



# South Tyneside Council

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Our Ref: TH/BS/SS/LB

Dear Head Teachers

## COVID-19 Advice for Schools

As you'll be aware the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's Covid-19 response which is aimed at how we respond and live with the virus rather than react to it.

Reducing disruption to children and young people's education and supporting schools to deliver face-to-face education are some of the main priorities in this plan.

With the lifting of restrictions the [Schools Covid-19 operational guidance](#) has been updated to reflect the changes and schools are being asked to follow the control measures set out in the guidance. These include following good hygiene and cleaning regimes, ensuring good ventilation and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing cases of Covid-19.

Staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools are no longer expected to test twice weekly, however staff and pupils in specialist SEND settings, Alternative Provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools are advised to continue with asymptomatic testing. [The SEND and specialist settings additional Covid-19 operational guidance](#) has information relating to testing.

Our regional Health Protection Team considers schools for pupils with Special Educational Needs as high-risk settings, though it's not yet clear on the national arrangements for testing in these settings, although we appreciate that the DfE may have written to heads directly.

We are in a very different place to where we were this time last year with a largely vaccinated population offering a very good level of community protection. Good infection, prevention and control measures will help to help to reduce infections, prevent illness, and help keep staff and pupils in schools.

Please be assured that Public Health and Education and Skills remain here and are able to support schools if you have queries or concerns.

Thank you for all your continued efforts and over the past two years and we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to keep children in school, protect our most vulnerable residents and help South Tyneside recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hall", with a horizontal line drawn above it.

Tom Hall  
Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverley Scanlon", written in a cursive style.

Beverley Scanlon  
Head of Learning and Early Help