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## Updated COVID-19 measures in schools

At the current time recorded cases of COVID-19 in Sunderland continue to be high and are increasing. Latest data shows that there were 2,124 cases in most recent 14-day period, 37% of which have been in people ages between 5 and 19 years. The increase in the rate of cases in this age group has been followed by an increase in older age groups, which is also concerning.

Since the start of the new academic year the rate of cases in the school aged population has risen to very high levels and although latest data suggests this may be stabilising it is doing so at these high levels of infection.

Please continue with the following measures:

- **Reinforce the importance of twice weekly LFD testing for all staff** – regular testing will help to reduce transmission by identifying those who are infectious but do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Reinforce that any staff or pupils with symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, should stay at home and take a PCR test.**
- **Anyone who is unwell should stay at home, as advised in the winter plan.**
- **Continue with regular cleaning measures, including enhanced cleaning in an outbreak situation** with particular attention to high contact areas such as door handles, light switches, toilet flushes and taps and communal handrails.
- **Good hand hygiene** – washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.
- **Good respiratory hygiene** – people should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing and dispose of used tissues immediately and clean hands.
- **Ensure windows are open in the classroom** to facilitate good ventilation, as much as practicable and particularly in areas that have been shown to have poor air quality.
- **Recommending the use of face coverings on dedicated school transport.**



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