

Monday 27th September 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: Introduction of face coverings in school / lateral flow testing twice a week

Since children have returned to school in September, we have seen a significant increase in COVID-19 cases in our secondary schools. Salford's public health team has worked closely with all schools to support them to control the spread throughout schools by putting appropriate controls in place.

Unfortunately, cases are still rising, and we have now advised all Salford high schools to return to using face coverings to limit the spread.

Staff and children should use a face covering when moving around the school on corridors and all communal areas; this will include all dining areas. Masks can be removed when eating and drinking and when children are seated in lessons if appropriate.

We would also like to ask that your child tests twice a week using the lateral flow device testing. This will help to identify cases that have no symptoms. Staff in schools have also been asked to ensure they test twice a week. We are also advising PCR test if there is a positive person living in the same household or if they are known to have been in contact with a positive case.

If your child tests positive they will need to isolate for 10 days.

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage you and your child to get the COVID vaccine. The more people are vaccinated in the community, the better this protection will be for everyone.

We are working closely with schools and our priority is to ensure children's education is not affected to the best of our ability, while we also must protect children, staff and families in the best way we can to reduce the spread of the virus.

In schools with an outbreak, we may have to put in additional measures such as face coverings to be worn inside classrooms or return to bubble arrangements to keep education going as safely as possible.

We would like to thank you for your support during these challenging times

Kind regards



Dr Muna Abdel Aziz

Director of Public Health