



4th of November 2021

COVID-19 Additional Measures

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see the attached letter from Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health and Jim Murray, Head of Education and Skills, regarding a large increase in the number of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for COVID-19. The highest case rates are in school age children. This is leading to a spread of COVID-19 within families and into older age groups.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in children is disrupting their education, affecting schools and has an impact on the wider community.

We have received recommendations from Durham County Council's Public Health team who have advised schools to re-introduce measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school. At Lumley Infant and Nursery School and Lumley Junior School, many of these measures have remained in place since March 2021. These include:

- staggered start and finish times
- keeping children grouped in class or year group bubbles to reduce mixing
- a staggered timetable for playtimes and lunchtimes
- additional attention given to ventilation, respiratory and hand hygiene
- maintaining an enhanced cleaning schedule
- holding whole school assemblies virtually
- twice weekly LFD testing for all staff members
- only one adult per household to drop-off or collect their child from school
- open days or events held in a virtual format, such as Parental Consultations.
- the use of face coverings in all communal areas for all adults, within school

In addition to these measures both schools will be re-introducing the following:

- educational visits and residential trips to only be arranged where children can be kept within their bubble groups and a thorough risk assessment has been completed
- children and adults must now stay at home if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and are waiting for the result of a PCR test
- PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in their household
- daily LFD testing at home for 7 days for any adult or pupil in Lumley Junior School who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms, from when they tested positive.

Finally, I would like to thank you for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in continuing to support our schools during this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracey A. Wilson'.

Tracey Wilson