



Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **COVID-19 – important information about year group 9.**

We have been advised that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within your child's year group. The school has been working very closely with South Tyneside's public health team to review the measures we currently have in place to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep your children and the school safe.

If your child has not already had a PCR test South Tyneside Council have advised that you book a test for them as soon as possible. You can do this online [get a coronavirus test](#) . If you have problems or cannot use the online service call 119. Please report the result to the school.

Please note you should not book a PCR test for your child if they have received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days unless they have developed any new symptoms.

The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We would ask that you monitor your child's health for the main signs of Covid-19:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss or change in their sense of smell or taste

If your child becomes symptomatic, you must:

- Keep your child away from school
- Book a PCR Test for your child as soon as possible
- Report the result to school

About 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. As there have been a number of cases in your child's year group, as a precaution you may wish to consider limiting your child's contact over the next week with anyone in your family or social circle who may previously have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable or older people (65 years and over).

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 16 and over can ‘grab a jab’ and [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and a programme is taking place to offer the vaccine to 12-15 year-olds
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over) [rapid coronavirus tests if you do not have symptoms](#)

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Hall', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

**Tom Hall**  
**Director of Public**