

Dear Parent /Carers,

You will probably be aware that new guidance has been provided by local government about how we are to prevent the spread of the Delta variant in schools, last Wednesday. I am writing to let you know how this will work at North Liverpool Academy, from Monday.

The messages from Matt Ashton (Director of Public Health, Liverpool) and Steve Reddy (Director of Children's Services, Liverpool) are as follows:

In recent weeks, we have seen a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases in Liverpool. Currently Liverpool has rates of 158/100,000 and is on an upward trajectory. The dominant strain of virus in the UK is called the Delta variant and we have seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases locally. Evidence suggests the Delta variant spreads more easily than previous strains.

As a result, we are requesting that additional measures are brought into schools to slow down the spread of the virus. These controls may cause some disruption to end of year plans that normally take place. Activities such as transition, assemblies, proms and performances may need to be modified and alternative arrangements made. Educational visits may also be impacted by these additional measures. Schools will communicate with parents directly if any of their plans are impacted.

### **Face Coverings**

On the 21st June 2021, we are requesting staff and pupils in Year 7 and above to wear face coverings indoors whilst in school, including in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained, with the exception of certain lessons such as PE. This is an additional measure to support schools to manage the increased risk of school-based transmission due to increasing cases and is fully supported by central government.

The purpose of wearing a face covering is to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus to other people if you are infectious but don't have symptoms. We know that up to 30% of people with COVID-19 don't experience symptoms, and everyone who has the virus will be infectious in the two days before their symptoms start, so wearing face coverings is one of a range of infection prevention and control measures that have been introduced in schools to protect pupils and staff.

Exemptions for wearing face coverings are still in place and further information about exemptions can be found on the government website. Any pupil who has one of the conditions on the exemption list will not be expected to wear a face covering whilst in school. Anyone communicating to someone who relies on lip reading will also be exempt from wearing a face covering. Liverpool City Council | Cunard Building | Water Street | Liverpool | L3 1DS

We also continue to ask that parents and carers to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up children from school.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

We will be following their guidance and requiring masks to be worn at North Liverpool Academy from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June and will reinstate the safe working area for exemptions, which allows students to

access the same work as they would do in their normal classroom, but in a socially distanced room in which they can continue to learn without a mask on.

## Testing

We will resume lateral flow testing from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We have developed a quick process of moving students through the testing bays in a safe but quick manner, which enables them to return to lessons and continue learning, by minimising disruption. We will test the following Year groups on the following days:

MONDAY: Year 10

TUESDAY: Year 8 and Year 12

WEDNESDAY: Year 9

THURSDAY: Year 7

### **Contacting the school about Covid related issues**

The testing permission slips remain valid from the last testing period, but if you want to remove your child from the list, please contact us on:

[Covidconsent@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk](mailto:Covidconsent@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk)

### **Adding Consent**

If you have not given permission before, and wish to give permission for lateral flow testing for your child in school, please use the email address above making clear your wish to **ADD** consent for testing, your child's name and year group.

### **Reporting home test results**

If you have taken any lateral flow tests at home and are contacting us to inform us of the result, please send all results to:

[results@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk](mailto:results@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk)

For any other enquiries, please contact us on:

[admin@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@northliverpoolacademy.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support with the strategies we have used to keep your children safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Emily Vernon – Principal