



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children's Services Directorate

Atlas House
Corporation Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA9 1LD

Contact: Joanne Davies

17 September 2020

Dear parents,

We are writing to you to make you aware of the worrying situation in St Helens where, as we are sure many of you may know, there has been a significant rise in the number of positive cases of COVID 19. In the 7 days to 31st August, there were just 14 coronavirus diagnoses in St Helens. This has risen very sharply, and in the week to 14th September there have been 185 new cases recorded in the Borough so far. This corresponds to an increase in the weekly diagnosis rate from 7.8 diagnoses per 100,000 people in the Borough at the end of August, to 102.7 per 100,000 in the most recent figures.

The council has worked closely with schools to implement important safety measures to mitigate against the risk of children and young people becoming infected, however, we need your support too. We ask that you support our schools by:

- Getting your child tested if they develop COVID-19 symptoms: new and continuous cough, a high temperature, loss or change to smell or taste
- Ensuring your child isolates for 14 days if they have had contact with someone who has tested positive.
- **Wearing face coverings over your nose and mouth, unless exempt, when you pick up or drop off your children at school. By law you must now wear them in most indoor settings and on public transport**
- Staying two metres away from other adults and children. You should not wait in groups of more than 6
- Limiting the contact your child has with other children, young people and families when not in school and ensuring the rule of 6 applies indoors and out
- Staggering drop off and pick up times and using pick up points as instructed by the school
- Washing you and your child's hands with soap and water as soon as possible after picking your child up from school.

This is an ever - changing situation in which we find ourselves. We will endeavour to keep you updated as new guidance becomes available. In the meantime, we need to continue to pull together to help bring our rate of infection down.

We thank you for your support and hope you and your families keep in good health.

Kind Regards

Jim Leivers
Director of Children's Services