

To:
Parents and Carers of school and
college age children and young people

Date 12 July 2021

e-mail: educationandskills@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Enhanced government support for Brighton & Hove to bring Covid cases down

Thank you once again for all your efforts to follow the advice being given to keep Covid rates low in the city.

As you are likely aware, we are currently seeing high levels of Covid cases in the city. Our current rate is more than twice that of the South East.

Due to the high numbers of people currently in the city with Covid, extra support is being deployed in the city of Brighton & Hove, building on all the fantastic work we've all been doing to keep each other and the city safe and open for business.

The aim of this additional support is to slow down the rate of Covid-19 infection in the city, allowing time for more people to get both vaccinations.

This support includes:

- Additional testing in the city, two symptom free walk-in PCR Mobile Testing Units
 - one at the Peace Statue on Hove seafront
 - one in Jubilee Square, by Jubilee Library
- Additional advertising and campaigning support and materials – to further promote both testing and vaccination, aimed at the highest risk groups.
- An engagement team to supplement the work the city's Covid Marshalls and other council teams are doing in bars and restaurants and heavy footfall areas to promote testing and vaccination.
- The green light to ask all secondary schools and colleges with children and young people aged Year 7 or above, to reintroduce face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for staff and pupils.

Rates in school aged children are very high: most recently around 595 per 100,000 in 10-14 year olds and 894 per 100,000 in 15-19 year olds.

From tomorrow (13 July) we are therefore advising all schools and colleges with children and young people aged Year 7 or above to reintroduce face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for staff and pupils until the end of term. Exemptions will remain for particular individuals and for where it would impact on the delivery of education.

Everyone, but especially 11-18-year olds at schools and colleges and their families and support bubbles, should still be taking Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests at home, two times a week and reporting the results. This ask will continue over the summer holidays.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of getting the Covid vaccination. If you know someone who hasn't had their first vaccine or is waiting for the second dose, convenient no appointment, no documentation vaccination sessions are now open every day in Brighton & Hove – at the Racecourse, the Brighton Centre and mobile clinics. Find a session near you: www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/get-my-jab

Last month we issued advice about keeping the current protective measures in place until the end of term. We understand that some schools and colleges are having to make difficult decisions about how the rest of this summer term is best managed.

We have asked schools and colleges to limit the risk of transmission wherever possible. This includes rethinking how end of term events such as proms, transition visits and leavers celebrations are held, and we have recommended that 'bubbles' are retained for the rest of term.

We know that this means that in many cases parents and carers are not being invited along to take part or watch and we understand that will be disappointing.

However, if a school or college has made that decision it's based on a robust risk assessment and careful consideration of the current situation in the city and we support their decisions.

Please continue to help the city's schools and colleges in making the end of term as safe and enjoyable as possible for all our children and young people in the city.

Yours sincerely,



Deb Austin
Executive Director,
Families, Children & Learning



Alistair Hill
Director of Public Health