

People Directorate

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RE: CEV PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE END OF SHIELDING 31 MARCH 2021

From 1 April 2021 the government has recommended that clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and students no longer need to shield and that they should return to their school or other educational setting.

Schools in Cheshire East have all worked very hard to implement a range of protective measures to ensure that they follow all COVID requirements for all members of the school community and are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school.

At present the number of COVID cases in the community in Cheshire East is lower than it has been since September 2020 and numbers are continuing to fall. In addition to this all staff who work with clinically extremely vulnerable children have been offered the vaccine, further reducing the risk of transmission to children in the school.

To safeguard the health of the school community and keep as many staff, pupils and students in school and college as possible, rapid lateral flow coronavirus (COVID-19) tests are available to all staff and students in year 7 and above. Lateral flow tests can also be accessed directly for households, childcare and support bubbles of anyone who attends or works in a school or college. This testing will also help keep the school community as free from COVID as possible.

The use of rapid lateral flow tests allows us to identify individuals with coronavirus (COVID-19) who do not have symptoms which make up around a third of all cases, In addition to this asymptomatic testing, all schools are continuing to put in place a range of protective measures to help minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19. These include social distancing, handwashing, use of face coverings in specific situations, specific groupings of pupils, enhancing cleaning and ventilation and managing confirmed cases.

We understand that you may have some anxieties about your child returning to school, but research shows that returning to school or college is vital for a child's educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development.

If you have specific questions about your child's return to school after a period of shielding please contact the school to discuss the arrangements.

Additional advice and support can also be accessed via the Attendance and Out of School Team at EHPCOVID19Schoolplaces@cheshireeast.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss the issue of your child returning to school with the Public Health team please email COVID19@cheshireeast.gov.uk and we will arrange for someone to call you.

Your sincerely



Jacky Forster
Director of Education and 14-19 Skills