

PUBLIC HEALTH

Council House, Manor Square
Solihull, West Midlands
B913QB
www.solihull.gov.uk

Date: 19/4/21

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID secure return to school/setting

I hope you and your children have had a good break and that since the lifting of some of the national COVID restrictions last Monday things are starting to feel more normal than they have for some time.

Our local COVID numbers show that the combination of lockdown and vaccination roll out has had a big impact on the number of people getting COVID or needing hospital treatment. Over half of the people living in Solihull have had their first dose of vaccination. This is very good news but many adults are not yet protected against the virus through vaccination so until this has rolled out to younger adults, the virus can still spread and numbers increase again.

If rates continue to fall and stay low, and vaccination continues to roll out well, this would mean that from the 17th May (**not before**), people will be able to do more, including staying in other people's houses, meeting up to 6 people or another family indoors, going to the cinema and eating and drinking indoors at pubs or restaurants.

To help us keep our numbers low, we're asking everyone locally to follow our 5 point plan:

1. **Twice weekly COVID testing for ALL adults:** you can now pick up test kits to do at home in pharmacies and other local collection points or by ordering these online. Find out more at <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/covid-testing>.
2. **If your child is at college or secondary school, they will continue to get test kits to do at home.** Please do encourage them to do this twice a week. Please do record your/their results online too, even if they are negative.
3. **Stick with the national restrictions until these change.** You can meet one family group or up to 6 people OUTDOORS only. Shops and other places are now open including pubs and restaurants outdoors, but the virus is still out there so remember hands, face, space and ventilation.
4. **Outbreaks happen when people do not self-isolate for 10 days** when they have COVID or are a contact of case. Find out what help you can get if you or your family need to self-isolate here <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/Self-isolation>
5. **Vaccination is now open to anyone aged 45 or over.** You will be contacted when you are eligible but please do go when you are invited and make sure you and your family go for their second

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vaccination too as this is very important. You can find out more here:

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/>

Following these will give us the best chance of keeping our children in school/settings and seeing the lifting of restrictions. Thank you for everything you are doing: it makes real difference.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Tennant
Director of Public Health, Solihull