Office of the Medical Officer of Health
19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
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Wednesday, 15 June 2021

Keep Your Guard Up

Dear parents/carers/students and the education community,

We would like to thank the education community, students, parents and carers for their hard work and commitment, in keeping their guard up, so we can continue to keep children, young people, staff and the community safe.

Jersey is the only place in the British Isles to have had schools, colleges and nurseries open all year. Keeping schools open is a critical element of the Government strategy to put children first and to ensure that there is no further loss to students learning. We know how little it takes to set all the good work back and none of us can afford to relax just yet.

It is likely that schools will be affected by Covid-19 cases before the end of this summer term, so we need to keep our guard up and continue to be prepared.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind the school community of the latest public health guidelines and reminders:

- Keep Testing - Taking Lateral Flow Tests and PCR Tests, where applicable
- Students are required to wear masks on buses
- Students in secondary schools and all staff are encouraged to continue to wear masks in corridors in educational buildings where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Physical distancing and bubbles where relevant remain in place
- Ensure schools, students and parents are aware of Covid symptoms
- Ventilation is maximised
- To keep up to date on the [Guidance for education and childcare: coronavirus (COVID-19) (gov.je)](#)

Covid-19 Symptoms

It is important that all of us – including those who make up the school, college and nursery communities, are vigilant for the symptoms of Covid-19 and understand what action you should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

It is essential that pupils who have Covid-19 symptoms do not attend school, nursery or other childcare settings and must self-isolate with all members of their household.

The three main symptoms of Covid-19 to be aware of are:

- New continuous cough
- Fever/high temperature
- Change or loss of smell and/or taste

If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the three main symptoms above they should self-isolate and you should call the coronavirus helpline on 0800 735 5566 as soon as possible to get advice and arrange a test. With the new delta variant, a runny nose, sore throat and headache are frequently seen as well and indeed may be the predominant symptoms. Diarrhoea and vomiting can also be a feature of Covid-19 and are more common in children than adults. Further information on Covid-19 symptoms can be found [here](#).

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

Testing has always been a critical part of our pandemic response and it remains vital going forward, which is why it is important that we keep testing.

Every staff member in primary and secondary schools and colleges, as well as students in Years 11 and above, are, therefore, still being offered weekly Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) for Covid-19 on their school premises.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT), is designed to provide an additional layer of safety in schools by detecting asymptomatic cases to help keep schools open and children in continuous face-to-face learning. Remember that up to a third of individuals who test positive for Covid-19 have no symptoms at all and can therefore spread the virus unknowingly.

The LFT tests are voluntary and offered weekly in schools in addition to the PCR tests for all staff and students in Years 11 and above every six weeks.

Bookings can be made by calling 0800 735 5566. Testing is still recommended for those who have received one or both doses of the vaccination.

I appreciate the huge efforts being made by parents, carers, students, school, college and nursery staff who continue to follow the public health guidelines, which helps to keep our community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ivan Muscat MBE

Acting Medical Officer of Health