

Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy
Director of Population Health
Tameside MBC
Market Place, Ashton Under Lyne, Tameside, OL6 6BH

www.tameside.gov.uk

e-mail : Jeanelle.degruchy@tameside.gov.uk
Ask for Jeanelle de Gruchy
Direct Line **0161 342 5615**
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on the Covid-19 situation in Tameside and to ask for your continued help in reducing the spread of the virus and saving lives.

Locally the situation has changed. The number of cases of Covid-19 in Tameside has stopped reducing and we are now seeing a slight rise in cases.

These changes show that this is a very fragile situation and that we must all keep going in sticking to the rules and working together to protect our community. It is really important to continue to play your part, and not risk throwing away everyone's efforts over the last weeks to reduce infections. The government has said lockdown restrictions will only ease if infection rates are kept under control. This will be led by the data rather than dates. Delays on being able to meet with family and friends; businesses, venues and shops reopening; and returning to doing the things we love, are the last thing that any of us want. School leaders know their communities well, and are working very hard in ever changing circumstances to put in place plans to ensure schools are safe and the needs of children and young people are met.

It's really important to isolate if you or anyone in your household have Covid-19 symptoms and to access a PCR test, don't mix households, and keep up handwashing, wearing of face coverings when required and social distancing to protect yourself and others. I'd also urge you to please follow the actions that will help ensure children can attend school without more disruption, keep schools open and our communities safe. I ask that you support our schools by:

- Getting your child tested with a PCR test if they develop Covid-19 symptoms: new and continuous cough, a high temperature, loss or change to taste or smell.
- **Remembering rapid tests are only for people without symptoms.** If children or parents have any Covid-19 symptoms — they must isolate and book a **PCR test** by visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or calling 119.
- Ensuring your child isolates at home for 10 days if they are in close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- Wearing a face covering, unless exempt, when you pick up or drop off your children or on entering school grounds. By law you must wear these in most indoor settings and public transport.
- Staying two metres away from other adults and children. You should not wait in groups and leave immediately after picking up and dropping off your children.

- While your child might be in a bubble at school, they shouldn't meet up with members of their bubble outside school, as schools have lots of measures in place to help control the spread of Covid-19.
- Secondary school pupils must now wear face coverings in classrooms as well as communal areas where social distancing might be difficult.
- If you have the opportunity, carry out regular rapid tests (for people without symptoms) at home twice a week. This also includes children in secondary school. This means that anyone with Covid-19 who doesn't have symptoms can be identified and self-isolate quickly, helping to reduce spread and prevent outbreaks.

Thank you for your continued support. I appreciate that this is a very difficult time for all but hopefully, by working together, we can keep one another safe and drive infection levels down once again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanelle".

Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy
Director of Population Health

For further information on the local response to coronavirus, please visit www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus