

Professor Chris Jones
Dirprwy Brif Swyddog Meddygol
Deputy Chief Medical Officer



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

1 October 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

As a parent or carer of a child who attends one of our special schools in Wales you will be understandably concerned by the rise in COVID-19 in the community and its impact on you and your family.

I would like to reassure you that we have been working with your head teachers and local environmental health officers to introduce additional control measures to make special schools more COVID-secure and reduce the risk of introducing the virus into the school. The measures will reduce the risk of COVID infection but also other respiratory infections and seasonal illnesses.

Parents and carers have done a tremendous job throughout the pandemic, and continue to do so. You can continue to do so by following these steps.

1. Please take up the offer of all vaccination doses, if you have not already done so. Vaccination is our greatest defence against severe COVID infection.

If your child is eligible for the vaccine because they are in a clinical risk group I hope they too have received it.

2. Self-isolate if your child has any of the following symptoms: High temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in sense of smell or taste, or wider symptoms including headache, runny nose, sneezing or a sore throat or is displaying other symptoms out of the ordinary.

Do not bring them to school and get a PCR COVID test for your child. You can do this by calling 119, booking online at gov.wales or via the NHS COVID-19 app.

If the PCR test is **negative** and your child is well enough to return to school, your child will be welcomed back at the earliest opportunity. Other respiratory infections can also spread to other pupils so only send your child back to school when they no longer have symptoms.

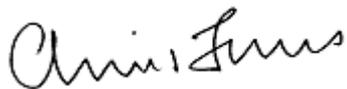
If your child tests **positive** for COVID-19 and you need additional support to care for your child or family, please do contact your Social Worker (if you

have one) or alert the school so that support from social services may be sought.

3. If another member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please let the school know immediately. The school will do a risk assessment to allow extra measures to be put in place so your child can continue to attend school.
4. If your child is suffering with diarrhoea and/or vomiting do not take them to school until 48 hours after their last symptom has stopped.

I appreciate that you may be worried, and your support, patience and understanding is really valued. I know that your school is doing all that it can to prevent the spread of infection and thank you for playing your part.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PROFESSOR CHRIS JONES
Deputy Chief Medical Officer