



## PUBLIC HEALTH

Council House, Manor Square  
Solihull, West Midlands  
B913QB  
[www.solihull.gov.uk](http://www.solihull.gov.uk)

Date: 01 July 2021

Dear Headteacher,

### **Encouraging staff and parents over the age of 18 to get their COVID vaccine now**

Over the last few weeks, we've seen COVID take on quite a different pattern. Our infection rates have climbed rapidly to 294 per 100k with 637 new cases in the last week. This is in stark contrast to the rate of 12 per 100k we experienced in mid-May. This rapid increase is caused by the Delta variant which is predominantly spreading amongst the younger people specifically in the 11-18 age group.

Hospital numbers, thankfully, have not increased at the same rate showing how good getting a vaccine is at protecting against severe reactions to the disease and hospitalisation. This is great news but we are still in a race to get all adults vaccinated to protect those who are vulnerable or have only had one dose of the vaccine.

Our best defence against COVID is for everyone aged 18 and over to get two doses as soon as possible. So far over 15,487 of our 18-29 year olds in the borough have had their first dose. **Please encourage anyone in your workforce and your parents aged 18 or over to get their vaccine as soon as possible.**

Alongside the NHS and our local Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group we are doing all we can to accelerate the vaccination programme over the coming weeks. We have walk-in vaccine centres being set up across the region on a daily basis.

**Our first one is at Chelmsley Wood Primary Care Centre, 16 Crabtree Drive, B375BU, on Friday 2 July from 9am until 5pm, where they will be offering the Pfizer vaccine which means anyone aged 18 or over can attend.**

Employees and parents can also find other walk-in vaccination sites [here](#).

And even if employees and parents are vaccinated, please encourage them to continue getting a test twice-weekly. Tests are available through your employer (if they offer testing), at a local test site or pharmacy, by collecting a home test kit from a test site, or by ordering a home test kit online. We have testing centres in Chelmsley Wood and Solihull town centres, you can walk in and get tested or take away a test to do at home.

If an employee or a parent does test positive and a PCR test confirms it, we can offer financial support when they need to self-isolate. We have increased the threshold on the scheme so that anyone can access funds if they earn up to £26,000 - full details [here](#). We can also provide other help and support; more information is available [here](#).

As ever, thank you to all of you for the huge effort you and your team are putting in place to manage the COVID impacts on your school community.

For further information about the vaccination programme please visit the [Birmingham & Solihull NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

For advice and guidance about testing, self-isolation and the support available please contact us at [contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

**Ruth Tennant**

**Director of Public Health**