

Thursday June 10, 2021

Dear parents/carers

As you will be aware from news reports over the past few days it would appear that we are unfortunately now entering a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The update yesterday from the Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board using data from Public Health England indicates:

- The R Rate in Southwark is estimated of 1.0 - 1.2 for the week ending 2<sup>nd</sup> June – this means that the number of infections is on the increase. The Delta variant is the increasingly dominant strain.
- Southwark is one of 8 London boroughs with transmission rates above the London average.
- New infections are mainly among the young and unvaccinated

Over the past two weeks we have seen small clusters of infections at both The Charter School North Dulwich and The Charter School East Dulwich and we must all remain vigilant and take personal responsibility in order to minimise the spread of the virus, both in our schools but also in the wider community.

Any positive cases among our pupils does not only mean increased anxiety as they recover from the virus, but also result in disruption to their education, and potentially that of their classmates, wider year group and school staff who are identified as contacts.

To ensure that any positive cases are identified quickly the following actions are strongly recommended:

- All secondary school pupils are strongly encouraged to continue Lateral Flow testing (LFT) twice-weekly. Taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if they do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus. Packs of seven LFTs can be collected from reception.
- If you or your child have a positive rapid lateral flow test result at home you and anyone you live with should self-isolate immediately and:
  - report your rapid lateral flow test result on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) as soon as possible
  - report the test result to your child's school **immediately** (by email to [office@chartereastdulwich.org.uk](mailto:office@chartereastdulwich.org.uk) or [covid@charternorthdulwich.org.uk](mailto:covid@charternorthdulwich.org.uk) or calling reception at your school)
  - get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result
  - Continue to self-isolate until you get the result of the PCR test. Follow the advice you're given when you get the result.(You can read the NHS positive test guidance [here](#))
- If anyone in your household develops symptoms (persistent cough, temperature, loss of sense of taste or smell\*) you **must** all isolate and report to school **immediately**. A PCR Test

must be taken to confirm whether or not it is COVID-19, and this result reported to school so that contact tracing can be carried out.

(\*The Zoe COVID study is indicating that the symptoms of the Delta variant in the young are different from the usual symptoms so you may want to be vigilant for these too. It is often presenting as a mild illness which may feel like a bad cold including headache, sore throat, runny nose and fever.)

Currently, Students are not required to wear masks in classrooms or outside the buildings, but all students must now wear masks in corridors and communal spaces where bubbles cross. Students may choose to wear a mask in the classroom. This policy will be reviewed next week and will reflect any updates to the government or local public health team guidance.

Our pupils have generally followed COVID-19 guidelines incredibly well so far and it is important that they continue to do so going forward and we are grateful for your support in re-enforcing these with your child.

It would be helpful to remind our young people of the wider restrictions in terms of meeting up with people either in the home or outside - the current guidance is here but continues to urge caution when meeting up with friends and family:

[meeting friends and family.](#)

It is incredibly disappointing for all of us to be faced with the news that we may be heading into a third wave and that life may not be able to return to 'normal' just yet. However, we must all continue to do our best to help to control the virus and hopefully avoid more stringent controls being imposed.

Thank you all for your continued support with this.

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