

Dulwich Hamlet

Junior School



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Monday 14th June 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 seeing signs of a potential third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The last update we have received 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 2nd 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 clusters of infections at five out of the six schools in the Trust and three schools have had to send groups of pupils home to self-isolate. It is increasingly clear that 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 adults are encouraged to carry out Rapid Lateral Flow testing (LFT) twice-weekly. Taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus. You can find out more about how to access these tests (either through a pharmacy, online or at a local testing site [here](#)).
- 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@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.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.)

Our pupils have followed our COVID-19 system of controls incredibly well, 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, including frequent and thorough handwashing, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' for coughs, and sneezes, and adhering to any social distancing measures in your child's specific school setting.

As we await an update on the Governments roadmap out of lockdown from the 21st June we would also like to remind everyone of the wider restrictions in terms of meeting up with people either in the home or outside - the current guidance is here and 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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