



Director of Children's Services: Helen Budge

All Parents and Carers

Our Ref: HB/RC/kk/S40-37/corr/21/015
Your Ref:

Children's Services

Hayfield House
Hayfield Lane
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0QD
Telephone: 01595 744000

If calling please ask for
Helen Budge

Direct Dial: 01595 74 4064

Date: 25 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Arrangements for the start of term two:
Update to all parents and carers on COVID-19 mitigations and measures in schools
and early learning and childcare settings**

I am looking forward to all children and young people returning to their school or early learning and childcare setting on Wednesday 27 October 2021 for the start of term two of session 2021/22.

Ahead of Wednesday's return, I write to confirm that, in line with Scottish Government expectations, existing COVID-19 mitigations and measures will continue to be in place in all schools in Shetland Islands Council at the start of the new term.

These mitigations and measures are as follows:

- COVID-19 school risk assessments;
- 2 metre physical distancing requirements for all staff in settings;
- The use of face coverings for staff in primary settings and for staff and pupils in secondary settings as per the arrangements that were in place in term one;
- The use of hand sanitisers throughout the school day;
- Daily hand sanitisation for all children and young people on arrival at school;
- One way systems throughout schools;
- Enhanced daily cleaning during the school day and further cleaning undertaken daily at the end of each day;
- Parents/carers continuing to be advised to avoid contact with other parents, children and young people at the school entrance, on the way to school, and after school as well as wearing face coverings on school grounds;
- Careful monitoring to ensure the appropriate level of ventilation and adequate air flow throughout school buildings with CO2 monitors deployed, monitoring the level of CO2, and temperature in classrooms;
- Access to asymptomatic, lateral flow, testing kits twice a week for all school and early learning and childcare staff and all secondary aged children;
- Essential visitors to schools only; and
- Peripatetic staff only being able to access one school setting per day.

There has been a slight change to the mitigations for early learning and childcare settings. Parents and carers may now accompany children into settings **where it is considered beneficial for children's wellbeing, progress and behaviour**. It is also possible for settings to arrange for parents and carers to attend outdoor events such as sports days and celebration events. These changes can only take effect with permission from the manager or head teacher, who is best placed to judge what is appropriate for their setting, and with rigorous risk assessments in place. Therefore, the application of this change may be different in different settings.

All secondary pupils are strongly encouraged to restart twice-weekly at-home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing this week, along with all school and early learning and childcare staff. Ideally, the test should be taken the morning of, or night before, the return to school on Wednesday 27 October 2021.

Schools have previously provided lateral flow test kits to secondary aged children and young people, which can be used for these purposes. If you do not have test kits, you can access them in a range of different ways, including ordering online for home delivery, or collecting kits from your nearest test site or pharmacy. Further information is available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested in Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/coronavirus/covid-19/getting-tested-in-scotland)

This approach to lateral flow testing is designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks when settings re-open.

As we start the new school term, please continue to be vigilant to the symptoms of COVID-19 within your family household:

- A high temperature of fever;
- A new continuous cough;
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste.

If anyone in your family develops any of these symptoms, you should immediately self-refer for a coronavirus test by completing an online form on the NHS Inform website. This form is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and will be picked up by the testing team as soon as possible. If you are unable to access the online form, you can contact a dedicated phone line 01595 532 030 between 9 -12.30 and 2–5pm Monday to Friday. You should all self-isolate until you have the test results.

In the event of a confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 connected to a school or early learning and childcare setting, officers in Children's Services, the school's Head Teacher and colleagues in Public Health will work closely to assess the situation and clarify next-steps, communicating regularly with all the setting's parents and carers.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish everyone all the very best with the new term. If you have any questions about any aspect of this letter, please contact your school's Head Teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Helen Budge
Director of Children's Services
Enc: NHS Shetland Local COVID Information