

Request for co-operation for health protection purposes Health Protection (Local Authority Powers)(Wales) Regulations 2010 (Regulation 8)

20th September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to you in my capacity as chair of the Caerphilly County Borough Council Covid 19 Incident Management Team (IMT). The incident management team includes representatives from the Environmental Health Department, Public Health Wales (PHW), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), the Education Department and importantly the Head Teacher of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre.

Trinity Fields is a high risk setting and many of the children remain unvaccinated. As you may be aware there are currently several positive cases of Covid 19 in the school, both in pupils and staff. Unfortunately, we are aware that some children have been sent to school whilst displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This is unacceptable and may pose a serious risk of transmission to others at the school, especially to pupils that are clinically vulnerable. May I remind you that children should only attend school when they are well enough to do so. I therefore seek your cooperation and request that you keep your child at home if he/she is experiencing any of the symptoms listed below or is displaying symptoms out of the ordinary.

Symptoms: High temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in sense of smell or taste, plus wider symptoms including headache, runny nose, sneezing or a sore throat.

If your child presents to school with any of the above symptoms, he/she will immediately be returned home. Thereafter, you are advised to obtain a PCR Covid Test for your child. 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. If the PCR test is positive, you will be contacted by the Test, Trace and Protect Service and your child will be required to isolate for 10 days. Throughout the 10 days support will be provided for your child to be educated at home with appropriate learning experiences.

Would you also be mindful that children may also experience some wider symptoms of Covid-19, including headache, runny nose, sneezing or a sore throat. If your child does not normally experience these symptoms would you please be cautious and arrange for a PCR test.

If your child tests positive for Covid 19 and you require additional support to care for your child or family, please do contact your Social Worker (if you have one) or alert the school to your additional needs so that support from Social Services may be sought.

Additionally, if another member of your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do inform the school immediately. A risk assessment will be completed to allow additional measures to be put in place for your child to continue to attend school.

I appreciate that these are very challenging times, however your support, patience and understanding is very much appreciated.

The IMT is satisfied that the School is doing all that it can to prevent the spread of infection however, improvement can only be achieved if everyone plays their part.

I therefore urge you to please take note of the above requirements.

Kind regards,

Ceri Edwards

Chair of the Caerphilly County Borough Council Covid 19 Incident Management Team