

Dear parents and guardians,

Update on Covid-19 in Lancashire schools and colleges

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support and understanding in keeping young people at Runshaw College, as well as our wider communities, safe and adhering to national and local Covid guidance.

As you may be aware, in recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases and outbreaks reported in education settings. There has been media attention recently on variants of concern, and the Lancashire County Council area is no exception.

Therefore, it is important to do as much as possible to continue to keep our children and families safe and minimise the disruption to education. This includes various areas of prevention and early intervention, such as, in some cases, a temporary move to blended learning.

The opening up of asymptomatic PCR testing to whole school and college populations has been another key measure that has been utilised where outbreaks have occurred. The purpose of this testing is to control the spread of the virus to prevent further disruption to education.

If the PCR test result is positive, students and their households must self-isolate from the day their symptoms started (or the day they had the test if they do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. If you are informed you are a close contact of a person who has tested positive for Covid-19, you must stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full days. Close contacts should also take a PCR test and continue to isolate even if the result is negative.

As we look towards lifting restrictions at Runshaw College, it is important that we continue to undertake routine testing using the free LFT kits that are now widely available. These rapid tests will play a pivotal role in allowing for normal life to resume by detecting asymptomatic cases and will help avoid further disruption to education.

Lastly, I would like to thank you again for your support throughout the pandemic. I am extremely grateful for this, and for your patience, during this difficult time.

Thank you.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi
Director of Public Health
Lancashire County Council