

# BALLYORAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal | Mr R Woolsey, BEd (Hons), PQH



8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Surge in Covid-19 Cases in Schools

You will be aware that the return to school has brought a surge in Covid-19 cases across Northern Ireland, this is placing severe pressure on our schools. The current guidance from PHA is also creating major challenges.

To date we have managed to avoid this in school but it is vitally important that we all work together to continue to reduce the risk of Covid-19 within our school community. We have been continuing to prepare to ensure that our contingency plans are as robust as possible.

**Can I ask that if anyone within your household has a Positive Covid-19 Test Result that you do not send your child/children to school, instead book a test for them. This will greatly reduce the risk to the school community.**

## **Reporting a Confirmed Positive Covid-19 Case**

All positive cases of Covid-19 in any of our pupils must be reported to us immediately:

- During office hours, between 8.30am and 3pm parents may phone the school or email [info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk)
- Outside office hours parents must email [info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk) outlining:
  1. Name of pupil
  2. Year Group
  3. When they were last in school
- If the positive test result comes outside school hours, please inform us immediately, do not leave it until the next morning, this will give us time to plan.
- We also ask that parents continue to inform us if pupils are off because other members of your household have Covid-19. This can be done via a phonecall to the office or email as above.

If we are informed of a positive Covid-19 case in a pupil or a member of staff who has been in school, we will follow the current PHA guidance and I have attached a copy of the Flow Chart outlining this guidance at <https://tinyurl.com/pp8x4kp7> which I would ask you to study carefully. Should you receive notification that your child is a Close Contact of a positive case, please strictly adhere to this guidance:

**'STAY AT HOME. Book PCR immediately. Self isolate until result available. If negative can return to school. Book another PCR at day 8. If either test is positive need to self-isolate for 10 days from date of test.'**

Please note:

- Parents must email negative test results to us at [info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk) before your child can return to school.
- If you choose not to have your child tested, they will have to remain at home and self-isolate for 10 days.
- LFD tests are not acceptable; they must be PCR Tests.
- If your child is Covid-19 positive, work will be made available online during their self-isolation. Please see guidance for accessing Google Classroom at <https://tinyurl.com/46n5vtz8>

Finally, can I ask everyone to strictly adhere to the main mitigations to protect our school community:

- Keep your child/children at home if they are unwell or if anyone in your household has Covid-19
- Good hand hygiene
- Good respiratory Hygiene – ‘Catch It, Bin It, Kill It’
- Keeping a safe social distance – pupils staying in their bubbles and parents when dropping off and picking up
- Adults must wear face coverings coming into the school grounds

I would reassure you that my number one priority remains, the health, safety and well-being of pupils and staff and I wish to thank you for your continued patience, co-operation and support in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Richard Woolsey  
Principal