

Education Services

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB
Telephone: 01259 450000



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

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Our Ref: CQ/LMcD

Your Ref:

Date: 09 December 2021

Parents/Carers of Children and Young People at
Clackmannanshire
Primary, Secondary & ELC Establishments

Dear Parents/Carers

All Scottish local authorities received a letter earlier today from the Director of Public Health Scotland about the new variant, known as Omicron.

We have been informed that the Omicron COVID-19 variant appears more transmissible than previous variants. Robust efforts to slow transmission are being undertaken and local Health Protection Teams are working with schools and ELCs to identify cases and close contacts. At this time, more stringent self-isolation measures are being applied and it may mean that whole classes or large groups may need to isolate.

Any Omicron case or contact identified by Test and Protect or the local NHS Health Protection Team must self-isolate for 10 days. This applies to everyone, irrespective of age, and the self-isolation period cannot be reduced by testing negative or being vaccinated. Contacts should arrange for PCR testing at their local testing site.

There may be occasions, following risk assessment, where secondary Omicron contacts (contacts of contacts) may be asked to self-isolate and get tested.

If a case is suspected of being infected with the dominant Delta variant, isolation guidance remains unchanged.

We appreciate this will cause significant concern about the potential educational impact and childcare arrangements in areas where Omicron is identified. Schools and ELC settings have plans in place to support changes which may result in remote learning.

To help prevent the spread and to protect yourself Public Health urge you to;

- Get vaccinated (whether your first two doses, or your booster when you are eligible) – this is the single most important thing you can do)
- Test regularly using LFD's
- Use face coverings, hand hygiene and social distancing where possible

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Anyone who has any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19;

- Onset of a new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change to taste and smell

should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.

In this ever-changing world of COVID-19 pandemic, advice may change rapidly. We continue to work with and be advised by Public Health and as always have the health and safety of children, families and staff as our priority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Quinn".

Catherine Quinn
Interim Chief Education Officer