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23 September 2021

### **Additional COVID-19 control measure agreed for schools in Cumbria**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children and young people aged between 5 and 16 (unless exempt – see below) will now be advised by their school to stay at home when a sibling tests positive for COVID-19 (via either a PCR or Lateral Flow test).

3-5 days after the onset of symptoms in the sibling who has tested positive (or test date if the positive case had no symptoms), the close contact child should get a PCR test. If negative, they can return to school, but should isolate immediately and get another test if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 later.

The groups exempt from this advice are:

- 12–18-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- Any child aged between 5 – 16 who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

### **Why are we advising this now?**

Managing COVID-19 cases is becoming increasingly challenging for educational settings.

In the week ending 17 September 2021, the 12-18 age group accounted for the greatest number of new cases in Cumbria followed by the 5-11 age group (+524 and +412 new cases respectively).

The 12-18 and 5-11 age groups also accounted for by far the greatest rates of new cases in Cumbria (1,431 and 1,106 new cases per 100k population respectively).

### **Additional advice**

Any parents or carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right to do so. In these situations, we strongly advise the child or young person identified as a sibling close contact to get a PCR test before attending school.

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should get a PCR test and stay at home until the result is known. Individuals informed by Test & Trace to isolate should stay at home for the time advised.

This additional control measure will be reviewed every two weeks and I will write to parents and carers again when we are able to remove it.

Thank you for your support.