

Please reply to: Lincoln Sargeant

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My ref:

Your ref:

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Website:

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Date: 14/07/2021

Dear parent/carers

As the national restrictions end, I wanted to write and ask for your support in helping us to manage the significant rise in cases that we are experiencing within Torbay.

We are strongly recommending to our schools that they keep in place their current level of COVID-19 mitigations including teaching in bubbles and limiting the number of visitors until the end of term. The COVID-19 mitigations in schools are designed to help limit the number of contacts and the potential for onward transmission. As we have a high number of cases within our schools, we want to limit the impact on children, staff and the wider school community.

We recognise that the final weeks of term would normally bring a wealth of exciting opportunities for children and families to enjoy with their school. However, for this year we are fully supportive of the difficult decisions that schools are needing to take to reduce access to these events. We know that our school leaders and teachers are working hard to make safe but fun activities happen for their pupils and we would ask for your support in respecting their decisions. I know that many schools have not cancelled but postponed events until a time when they can be safely delivered.

Here in Torbay our cases of COVID-19 have reached the highest rate of the pandemic so far. We are urging all residents to exercise more caution and specifically to keep meeting in small groups and outside wherever possible, to stay working from home if you can, get both vaccinations as soon as possible and to keep getting tested, so that we can get the virus back under control. More walk-in vaccination sessions are taking place at our vaccination centre in Torquay- dates and times are available on our website.

It remains important that if you have Covid-19 symptoms you and your family members continue to isolate and book a Covid-19 test straight away. [Information on testing if you have symptoms](#). Lateral Flow Testing devices should **not** be used if you have symptoms.

We have strong working relationships with all our schools and we are thankful that they are continuing to do everything they can to help us track, trace and isolate all positive cases.

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.



It is only by working together that we will beat this virus, I urge you to continue to remain cautious and vigilant over the coming months . The virus has not gone away.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Sargeant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant

Director of Public Health