

31st August 2021**Enhanced Response Areas - Schools**

Dear Headteacher / College Principal,

You will have seen in the press that due to the high rates of COVID infection being seen currently, the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay areas have been moved to an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) by central government.

This will be in place for 5 weeks initially but will be reviewed after 4 weeks.

We are seeing high numbers of cases across all areas of Cornwall and particularly in older teenagers and young adults. This move enables our area to receive additional capacity and to put in place additional measures to try to reduce transmission locally.

As you are aware schools and colleges under existing plans should be providing assisted testing sites to enable students to test on return to school and encourage all education staff to also test using home test kits prior to return to school or college.

Regular twice weekly testing will also be encouraged for all students in secondary schools/colleges, all education staff and all families and households of children attending schools.

In addition, due to moving to an enhanced response area, secondary school pupils, college students and all education staff are being asked to return to wearing face coverings in communal areas.

This should include corridors and shared transport, (buses, trains and car) share but will not currently extend to classrooms and will be reviewed 2 weeks after the start of term by public health.

There are still exemptions in place for those who cannot wear a face covering

Other things that can be done are to: -

- Continue with high standards of hand hygiene.
- Isolate if you have symptoms or test positive.
- Try to meet outdoors rather than indoor and limit social contacts to stop the virus spreading.

Please be assured that Public Health England, the Department for Education, and the Local Authority Directors of Public Health and Children's Services are working collaboratively to support a safe and successful return to school.

You can find more information on our dedicated back to school page: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/backtoschool>

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Wigglesworth
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Director of Public Health
Wellbeing and Public Health
Tel: 01872 322545
Email: rachel.wigglesworth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Council | Konsel Kernow

E: rachel.wigglesworth@cornwall.gov.uk | **T:** 01872 322545
www.cornwall.gov.uk

