Dear parent or carer

As the new school term starts, we want to provide the latest update regarding Covid-19 locally. The situation in Leicestershire remains concerning.

We are seeing the highest levels of Covid infection ever and numbers continue to rise – and we're asking for your support to help keep schools open, including getting your jab.

The start of term will undoubtedly cause infection to spread again but schools are doing everything they can to keep their doors open. Please continue to follow the latest advice. Wear a face covering where it's needed. Continue to wash hands and keep rooms ventilated.

Over the Christmas period, hospital admissions doubled and people were urged to get their Covid vaccine. More than 60,000 people were vaccinated between 20 and 26 December.

Sadly, the majority of hospital intensive care beds are being taken by Covid patients. Over 75% are unvaccinated, some will not make it home.

This is having a big impact on frontline health and care staff, as well as patients waiting for cancer and cardiac surgery who require an intensive care bed to have their operation.

This is the plea from our NHS colleagues: getting your jab is the single most important thing you can do to protect yourself and others.

There are still almost 190,000 people locally who are overdue a booster dose, which is essential for protection against Omicron, now the dominant variant.

- 16% of over 18s haven't had a first dose
- 34% of those aged 16 to 17 haven't had a first dose
- 54% of those aged 12 to 15 haven't had a first dose

Many clinics are walk-in, so you don't have to book. Visit https://bit.ly/LLRVacBook for details.

We hope that lateral flow test availability remains stable, so please continue to test regularly – this is important as many people don't display symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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