

RUTH TENNANT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE
Council House, Manor Square
Solihull, West Midlands B913QB
Tel: 0121 704 6187
www.solihull.gov.uk

Email: ruth.tennant@solihull.gov.uk

Date: 23rd July 2021

Dear Colleague

Keep doing the right thing for Solihull: Priority actions to manage COVID

Thank you for all your efforts in the past months to manage COVID. I am writing to request your continued support to limit the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Many restrictions have been lifted however, Solihull now has one of the highest rates in the country with very large week on week increases. We are seeing significant business disruption and pressure across the NHS from both COVID and other non-COVID issues. We therefore need urgent action to contain the spread.

Many businesses have very good measures to keep their workforce and staff safe but, in some places, this is not the case. The Delta variant spread very quickly, and we have seen rapidly spreading outbreaks in some venues and workplaces.

Six steps

As a minimum there are six steps that we're asking you to take to protect yourself, your staff, and your customers while we manage this peak.

1. **Make sure you have a robust health and safety risk assessment that includes risks from COVID-19.** You should share your risk assessment with your staff, so they know what this says and what they need to do.
2. **Turn people with COVID-19 symptoms away.**
Staff members or customers should self-isolate if they or someone in their team has had a positive COVID-19 result, or if they have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. If you know that a worker is self-isolating, you must not ask or make them come to work. It is an offence to do this.
3. **Provide adequate ventilation.**
You should make sure there is a supply of fresh air to enclosed spaces where there are people present. This can be natural ventilation through windows, doors and vents, mechanical ventilation using fans and ducts, or a combination of both.
4. **Clean more often.**
Increase how often you clean surfaces, especially those that are touched a lot. You should ask

your staff and customers to use hand sanitiser and clean their hands frequently, and provide them with advice to promote good hygiene.

5. Enable people to check in at your venue.

You are no longer legally required to collect contact details, however doing so will help to support NHS Test and Trace to reduce the spread of the virus.

6. Communicate and train.

Keep all your workers, contractors, and visitors up to date on how you're using and updating safety measures. Sign up to the [Solihull Business Pledge](#) and display it to staff and customers

Outbreak management

Even with good measures in place, it is possible to get rapid outbreaks in your workplace. If you do experience high COVID numbers, please let us know via contacttracing@solihull.gov.uk in case you need advice to manage this.

Vaccination

Vaccination is protecting against severe COVID and hospitalisation, but we need more people to get both doses. Two doses are needed to be fully protected. There are now a wide range places people can get vaccinated many of which don't need an appointment.

To protect you and your customers we are asking you to:

- Promote vaccination to all staff using the following link <https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/>
- Consider offering staff time off in working hours to get vaccinated

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 (section 3 powers)

The regulations grant powers to local authorities to make directions which respond to a serious and imminent threat to public health. Any direction must be necessary and proportionate in order to manage the transmission of the coronavirus in the local authority's area. The regulations contain powers for local authorities to give directions which:

- restrict access to, or close, individual premises
- prohibit or restrict certain events (or types of event)
- restrict access to, or close, public outdoor places (or types of outdoor public places)

In view of the very high rates of transmission the advice above, and on the Solihull MBC website, is the minimum standard we expect from all businesses including retail, hospitality and event organisers. Section 3 powers will be applied on businesses that do not take adequate steps to protect staff and customers.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely



Ruth Tennant
Director of Public Health