

Dear parent/carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, Covid-19 rates in Wolverhampton, and much of the country, are increasing at this time. In Wolverhampton, there were 53 cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 in the seven days to 11 September, compared to 28.21 in the seven days to 4 September. Our numbers are similar to those in neighbouring Sandwell where, along with Birmingham and Solihull, contact between households is against the law from today.

We know that nearly 90% of our cases relate to transmission within households and from one household to another, and that's why today we are calling on all residents to voluntarily follow the measures which have been introduced in Sandwell, Birmingham and Solihull – and to limit all household-to-household as much as they possibly can.

This will help us stop the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and reduce the risk of increased admissions to intensive care and sustain our city's economic recovery.

We are actively talking to Government about our increasing infection rates, but want to act now to avoid more restrictive lockdowns later. We need your support to:

- encourage residents and others in your networks that this is the right thing to do and that we need their support if it is to be effective
- share the messages we are putting out via www.twitter.com/wolvescouncil and www.facebook.com/wolverhamptontoday via your channels where you can.

It's important to note that, at this stage, the evidence doesn't point to an increase in transmission in workplaces, schools or other settings. That's why we are focusing on household-to-household transmission - it's evidence-based.

Unless we act now and all do our bit to stop the spread of the virus, we may be heading for stricter lockdown measures seen elsewhere in the country.

Regards

John Denley
Director of Public Health
City of Wolverhampton Council