

Dear Parent/Carer

Subject: Local recommendations for testing to monitor and control cases of coronavirus

With emerging evidence of the transmission of new variants of Covid-19 in Wolverhampton, the city's schools and other educational settings are being asked to implement additional temporary testing measures to help stop the spread of the virus. This guidance has been developed in conjunction with Public Health England.

It is now recommended that any child, pupil or staff member who is absent because of sickness, or has to go home because they are unwell, takes a PCR test and does not return to the setting until they receive a negative test result and feel well again.

This advice is in addition to PCR testing for anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19, such as fever, a new, continuous cough or a change of taste or smell.

Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre, the City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said: "We have seen the emergence of new variants of Covid-19 in Wolverhampton in recent weeks, including the more transmissible variant first identified in India.

"These of course pose a risk to the excellent progress we have made over the last few months in tackling the spread of Covid-19 in Wolverhampton, and we are therefore asking our schools and educational settings to implement these additional measures as a precaution.

"We will review this advice on a regular basis and keep settings informed if the situation changes."

We appreciate that the advice and different types of testing can be confusing, so we have explained below.

For those with Covid-19 symptoms:

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms such as a fever, a new, continuous cough, or a change to your sense of taste or smell, you should **book a PCR test for them and they should self-isolate** for 10 days. All members of the household should also self-isolate.

For those who are reporting an absence:

If your child is **too unwell to attend their setting**, you should **report the absence, limit social contact and book a PCR test for the child**. There are no implications for other people in the household, unless the PCR test shows a positive result. If the PCR test result is negative, the child can return to school once well enough. If no PCR test is undertaken, then they should return to school 48 hours after feeling well again.

How to book a PCR test:

PCR tests can be booked online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. You will need to indicate when booking the test that you have been asked to get a test by the Local Authority.

Positive test results:

Anyone receiving a positive PCR test result should isolate, along with the rest of their household, for 10 full days. Other household members should get a PCR test, even if they do not have any symptoms.

Contact tracing will require anyone who has been in close contact with a positive case to within the previous 48 hours to self-isolate for 10 days. It is now recommended that they take a PCR test too.

For both the household and wider contacts, the full 10 day isolation period should be completed, even with a negative result. This is because the virus could still be incubating following their contact with the positive case.

Routine testing for those who are well:

All family members with children in educational settings should take a rapid Lateral Flow Test regularly, ideally twice a week and 3-4 days apart. One in three people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but could still accidentally pass it on to people around them.

For more information about rapid LFT tests and how to get them, visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/get-tested

Anyone with a positive LFT test result should self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. Both positive and negative LFT test results should be reported to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. By taking these steps now, we can monitor the and control the spread of coronavirus, identifying potential outbreaks before they occur.

Yours faithfully



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