

My Ref: JP / TK 029

Date: 23 September 2020

Dear Parent

As you will be aware, schools are working extremely hard to stop the spread of Covid-19.

We wanted to thank you for continuing to send your child to school and encourage you to keep on doing so.

There are a lot of guidelines for everyone to follow regarding positive cases, testing and isolation, and we understand that some of these can be confusing. We want to make these as easy as possible for everyone to follow.

We have put together a 10-step guide to help parents and carers make sense of the guidelines. This will help keep schools, staff and your children stay safe and stop the spread of Covid-19.

Here are the guidelines:

1. If your child has **one or more** of the following symptoms a new, persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell, they need to stay home and get tested for Covid-19.
2. If your child tests positive, they need to stay home for 10 days from the date of the positive test. The whole household will also need to stay at home, but for 14 days.
3. People in your household do not need to get tested unless they start showing symptoms of Covid-19.
4. If your child tests negative, they can return to school once the symptoms have gone and they are better.

If your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and is told to isolate:

5. If your child has been told to isolate as a contact of a positive case, they need to stay at home for 14 days. They do not need to get a test unless they start showing symptoms of Covid-19. Getting a test when not symptomatic will not make any difference to the isolation period from 14 days.

6. You and the rest of your household don't need to isolate unless your child starts showing symptoms.

7. **Please do not get a private test** these may be unreliable, and antibody tests cannot be used for a diagnosis. Only get a test through the NHS or the County Council.

8. Schools should not be asking people to provide evidence of a negative test result before allowing children back into school.

Remember how to beat the virus:

9. Encourage regular handwashing, for at least 20 seconds.

10. Keep your distance ie 2 metres, especially outside the school gates, and wear a face covering when on public transport or in places where social distancing is difficult.

Remember, if you or your child are told to isolate, this means staying at home. If you do not isolate when told to do so, new rules mean you could be fined up to £10,000.

We know there have been issues with national NHS testing. The government is working to increase capacity, and the County Council has also put in place local measures. By only going for a test if you have one or more of the symptoms will help to make sure those who have symptoms can get a test.

We hope this letter makes things a little clearer, and acts as a reminder to follow the guidelines if you are told to do so. We need your help to beat this virus, by working together, following the guidelines, and doing everything we can to ensure our schools can stay safe and remain open.

Yours sincerely



**Jonathan Price**  
**Cabinet Member for Education**  
**(and SEND)**



**Dr Richard Harling**  
**Director for Health and Care**