



Dear Parent/Carer

End of COVID-19 testing – schools, children and families

We are writing to give you an important update following recent changes to Government guidance which means that free COVID-19 tests are no longer available for the majority of people.

As part of us all learning to live safely with COVID-19, there is now general advice for what to do if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19. We include a summary below but more information is on the Government's website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>

As we move into this next phase, we are asking schools to continue good practice including keeping indoor spaces such as classrooms well-ventilated, extra cleaning where necessary and reinforcing good general hygiene such as regular hand-washing. We also continue to support any individual that wishes to continue to wear a face covering in enclosed spaces. We currently have a high number of cases in Halton and it is really important that we all help to prevent the spread of infection.

If your child has symptoms of respiratory infection/COVID-19

Updated guidance from the Government states that whilst it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional, if they were to test positive, they should not come into school and try to isolate for 3 days after the day they took the test. After 3 days, if they are well enough, they can return to school.

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

COVID-19 vaccinations – first, second and booster jabs all available in Halton

Vaccination is still the best way to keep everyone including children and young people safe. Please check the latest information on who can have a COVID-19 vaccination and how to get it here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/

It's all happening IN HALTON

Public Health

Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TD

Tel: 0303 333 4300

www.halton.gov.uk

Local drop-in clinics (no appointment needed):

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

If you would like to speak to someone about getting a vaccine or for help with booking/practical issues, trained colleagues in our public health team are available to chat with you about your concerns or fears, and the benefits and risks in a friendly, private and supportive way. Please ring the Public Health Team on 0151 511 5200 and ask to arrange a chat about vaccination, or e-mail public.health@halton.gov.uk

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr Ifeoma Onyia
Interim Director of Public Health

Milorad Vasic
Strategic Director - People