



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/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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