

## Children's Services

**Gail Hopper,**

**Director**

**Children's Services**

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Our ref: GH/JC

Enquiries to: Jane Cooke

Extension: 5064

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Dear Parent / Guardian,

With our schools re-opening on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your amazing efforts when your children were home-schooling. It hasn't been easy for anyone and you have all played your part in reducing the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic in the borough.

The Government have laid out a clear 'road map' of how we all hope to get back to some form of normality by the summer and it is essential that we all continue to follow the legislation and guidance to ensure that the dates given to us for the easing of lockdown remain realistic. The vaccination programme is gaining momentum, however we should keep in mind that the virus can still be passed on even by someone who has had the vaccine.

Staff in Primary Schools are testing for COVID 19 twice a week. Primary age children are not being routinely tested so it is essential that any symptoms are reported to the school immediately and a full COVID 19 test is booked as soon as possible, using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-call-119>. Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms because they will be sent home again to isolate for 10 days, but so will many other children.

Secondary school staff are also testing for COVID 19 twice a week and children will have 3 tests in the school before being issued with home testing kits. Please report any positive cases from home tests immediately to the school and book a full COVID test. Again, it is important your child does not attend school if they have any symptoms. This helps school reduce the number of children being isolated so we appreciate you help with this.

We are grateful for your continued support in giving consent so that testing of our children is maintained over the coming months. It is essential that collectively we don't let our guard down, ensuring we are able to follow the Government road-map to end lockdown.

Please also remember, to keep our school communities safe, wear a face covering when dropping your child off at school / picking them up from school. This is part of the measures in place to protect everyone and stop the spread of coronavirus.

You may have been informed by your child's school about the extended list of symptoms COVID19 and the need to undertake a PCR test. A wide variety of clinical symptoms have been associated with COVID19. When making an appointment for a PCR test it is not a requirement for the patient to meet the definition of a possible COVID19 case. To access community PCR testing, appointments should be made online with the reason for the test being that it has been considered necessary by the Local Authority or by a clinical or public health professional. This is the box that should be ticked on the online form. For more info

about symptoms on the extended list visit: [Extended list](#). You will see that this is a Public Health England guidance document and not something that has been designed locally. All those presenting with symptoms must be tested via PCR testing. Please find attached at the end of this letter, a contact tracing document for your information.

We do believe that if we can continue to work together, following the points outlined in this letter that the remainder of 2021 may bring more positive experiences for us all, than we have lived with over the last year.

Thank you for helping us all to achieve that outcome.

## EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS TESTING & CONTACT TRACING – FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

	<b>PCR Test – Covid-19 Symptoms</b>	<b>Lateral Flow Test (LFT)– No symptoms</b>
What?	Results usually in 24-48 hours. Comprehensive and highly accurate for current infection	Rapid, result in 30 minutes. Identify individuals with the early stage of infectiousness and with the highest infectivity
When?	Individual has <b>symptoms</b> , take PCR test as soon as possible. Household members must isolate whilst they await results	No symptoms (asymptomatic), ideally taken twice-weekly to stop the chain of transmission <b>If an individual has symptoms, they are immediately required to take a PCR test</b>
How?	Conducted at home via postal testing kits or attending PCR testing centre: call 119 or visit: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test">www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</a>	Assisted - the individual being tested swabs themselves under supervision of a trained operator who will report the result  At Home (self-reported) - the individual swabs themselves, and reads and reports their own result. These tests are unsupervised and are not conducted in a controlled environment (i.e. they may be taken at home)
<b>Positive Result – Now what?</b>	Legal duty to self-isolate: Individual and household members must continue to isolate for 10 days.	Assisted – Legal duty to self-isolate for 10 days, including household and identified contacts. No further test required. If symptoms develop,

	Contact tracing will identify further contacts	individual and household must re-start 10 day isolation.
		At Home – Individual must take a confirmatory PCR test.
<b>Negative Result – Now what?</b>	Individual and household can end their isolation. Individual can attend school when well enough	Individual can continue to attend School/setting, providing they have no symptoms
<b>Inconclusive/Void Result - Now what?</b>	Re-take test and continue to self-isolating while awaiting for result	Re-take test. In the unlikely event of another void result, individual must take a PCR test



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Director of Children's Services



**Andrea Fallon**  
Director of Public Health