



7 April 2022

COVID-19 Changes to testing and guidance:

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now learning to live safely with COVID-19.

On the Friday 1 April, the UK Government ended universal free testing and removed the majority of restrictions, replacing it with generic guidance for respiratory infections – you can read this online: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Despite the changes to guidance, COVID-19 has not gone away, and the virus continues to circulate in our communities. To reduce the risk of infection, schools will maintain a number of control measures including:

1. Ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated
2. Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as handwashing and cleaning, especially for high touch-point areas
3. When children are unwell and have a high temperature, schools will be advising parents not to send their children to school and support them to avoid contact with others where possible. Once children are well enough to return to school they may do so.
4. Testing is not recommended for Under 18's unless directed to do so by a health professional. If a child was advised to do so and tested positive, schools will be advising children not to come into school and isolate for 3 days after the day they took the test.

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.

Vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination offers you the best protection from the virus. Children, young people, and adults can access COVID-19 vaccination via clinics taking place across the borough and the wider Liverpool city region. You can book an appointment or find the latest drop-in sessions by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> or calling 119.

Knowsley Council has also worked in partnership with Healthwatch Knowsley to provide a free taxi service for residents who do not have access to transport to get to a vaccination site.

You can call 0151 449 3945 (lines are open Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm) and they will talk you through your options to get to your nearest vaccination site.

Keeping safe from COVID-19

Continuing to follow those behaviours that we have all become accustomed to over the previous two years will help reduce the risk of catching and spreading the virus. We know that these measures work. This includes:

- Limiting contact with others and staying at home if you have symptoms, or test positive
- Regular hand washing
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces
- Continue to keep rooms well ventilated
- Meet outdoors rather than indoors wherever possible
- Carry a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes – bin the tissue immediately

Thank you for your support.



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