

Public Health

Marriss House
Hamilton Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 5ALwww.wirral.gov.ukDate: 17.12.2021

Dear parent/carer,

As the end of term approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what you can do to help us to keep the spread of COVID-19 as low as possible, both during the Christmas holiday and as we move into the start of the new school term in January.

Testing

Please make sure that members of your family (including your child if they are year 7 or above) continue to take regular LFTs as this will help identify infections early and reduce transmission. As well as testing twice weekly and before going to social gatherings through the holidays - please do test at home before returning in January. Secondary aged pupils will also be provided with an onsite test when they return in January 2022.

Contacts of people with confirmed Covid

From the 14th December 2021 there has been a change in government guidance around contacts of a confirmed case of Covid-19. Any double-vaccinated adult or children between the age 5 years and 18 years and 6 months who are contacts of a confirmed case are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days. If you take an LFD test and the result is positive, you or your child should immediately self-isolate to prevent passing the infection on to other people. You should arrange to have a PCR test. If this PCR test result is positive, you must self-isolate for 10 full days starting from the date the PCR test was taken. If this PCR test result is negative, you can stop self-isolating but you should continue to take your daily LFD tests.

If you are a contact of a confirmed case, it is also strongly recommended you minimise your contact with anybody who may be classed as vulnerable, to minimise the risk of further spread of covid19.

Individuals who are not double vaccinated are still required to self-isolate as per government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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With the emphasis on home-testing, we strongly recommend that you order a stock of your own test kits for these purposes. You can order test kits online by using this link: [order COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests online](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/testing) or you can visit www.wirral.gov.uk/testing to find out where in Wirral you can pick up testing kits.

Vaccination

Please get yourself and your child (age 12 and over) vaccinated or boosted as soon as possible. Being fully vaccinated, including getting the booster dose when eligible, is the best way of protecting yourself and others from illness. You can book online using the following link: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or visit [COVID-19 vaccination walk-in clinics - Wirral CCG](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/testing) to find out where your local vaccination clinics are.

You can find out more about the vaccination programme for 12-15s by visiting [in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/testing)

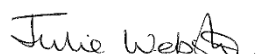
Face coverings

When the new term starts, please continue to send your children into school with a face covering. The current guidance is for pupils in year 7 and above to wear face coverings in communal areas e.g. corridors and meeting rooms). Please also note that if you are visiting the school, you will also be expected to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt for medical reasons). Further information on face coverings can be found here: [face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/testing)

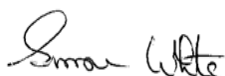
Finally, please **keep your child away from school if you suspect that he/she has COVID or they have had a positive LFT.** If either of these are the case, you must make sure that your child stays away from school and gets a PCR test to confirm. If that PCR test comes back negative, they can return to school

We would like to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes,



Julie Webster, Director Of Public Health, Wirral Borough Council



Simone White, Director of Family, Child & Education, Wirral Borough Council

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