

PUBLIC ARE HEALTH REQUESTING PARENTS TO GET CHILDREN TESTED IMMEDIATELY IF THEY ARE UNWELL FOR ANY REASONS

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, Covid infections are rising in North Warwickshire and a number of local North Warwickshire school have now had cases of Coronavirus, with their close contacts being sent home to self-isolate. Public Health are keen to make sure we are doing all we can to prevent any further cases. They have therefore extended the opportunity for testing to **any child who becomes unwell for any reason to test immediately.**

We know that Coronavirus usually presents as cough, high temperature or a loss of, or change in, taste or smell. Anyone presenting with these symptoms is likely to have coronavirus. Other symptoms like sore throat, muscle aches and severe fatigue are more likely to be a seasonal cold, but some children with positive Coronavirus tests have only had these lesser symptoms.

Should any child become ill for any reason, then your child does not attend school until they have a negative test result. To do so you need to state to 119 or online that you have been **requested to test by Public Health**. The symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhoea

We have attached an FAQ below on how to book your test when you have these less common symptoms. This is a new option which will be used in schools. This will reduce both possible transmission and self-isolations of entire classes; which is great news for the school and local community.

This does not change the national guidance that, if you are unwell with a cough, high temperature or a loss or change in taste or smell, you and your household must self-isolate until there is a negative test result. If anyone tests positive they must isolate for 10 days and their household must isolate for 14 days from the first day of symptoms.

We understand that this new guidance may be inconvenient to you, but we believe it is necessary to ensure that we can maintain education provision for your child(ren). We want to keep you, your families, your school, as well as your local community safe. Please help us - if your child is unwell, keep them at home and book a test.

Kindest Regards
Liann Brookes-Smith

Public health Warwickshire County Council

HOW TO BOOK A TEST FOR YOUR CHILD IF THEY ARE UNWELL FOR ANY REASON

Public Health are increasing the levels of testing to reduce transmission in school. We are now asking children with any symptoms to test. To access your test via the online portal or 119 you must state that **your local public Health has asked you to test.**

How to book the test for a screen:

1. Visit this website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
2. Select: "no, none of these symptoms"

Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

Yes, at least one of these symptoms

No, none of these symptoms

[Continue](#)

3. Select: "no" the person is not an essential worker

Is the person who needs a test an essential worker?

Essential workers include NHS staff, teachers and transport staff. Check the [full list of essential workers on GOV.UK](#).

Yes

No

I don't know

[Continue](#)

4. Select: “no” you are not part of a trial

Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project?

For example, they live or work in Liverpool and are taking part in city-wide testing

Yes

No

[Continue](#)

5. Select “my local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms”

Why are you asking for a test?

I've been told to get another coronavirus test

I'm ordering for someone I live with who has coronavirus symptoms

My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms

I'm part of the National Tactical Response Group (NTRG), or someone I live with is

None of the above

[Continue](#)

6. Complete the rest of the form as usual with details.

You can order a walk/ drive through test or a home test kit. Home test kits can take longer therefore we would prefer either a drive/walk through if possible. If you order a home test kit make sure you post this into a priority post-box to return it. You can find them here:

<https://www.royalmail.com/priority-postboxes>