

25th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support and patience this week, particularly Key Stage 3 parents. Leeds is currently seeing a significant increase in Covid 19 cases and we wanted to give you some information from Leeds City Council, including some key reminders.

Delta Variant and Twice Weekly Testing

As you are no doubt aware, the Delta variant of Covid-19 is now the most prevalent form of the virus in Leeds. The Zoe Covid Symptom Study, the largest ongoing global study of Covid-19, has highlighted that a headache, sore throat and runny nose are now the most common symptoms of the Delta variant, instead of a cough and loss of smell, although fever is still common.

It is vital that students and families continue to test twice weekly at home using the lateral flow testing kits, in order to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), prevent the spread of the virus and keep the school community safe.

Enhanced testing for parts of Leeds to tackle rise in COVID-19 cases

You may be aware that parts of Leeds are experiencing a sharp rise in cases of COVID-19 and that these areas will be offered an enhanced programme of community testing this week to help stay safe over the summer.

From Tuesday June 22nd, residents in the Hyde Park and Headingley and Little London and Woodhouse areas who are not experiencing symptoms will be encouraged to get a free PCR test at new pop-up testing centres located at Cinder Moor on Woodhouse Lane, the Gryphon Centre at The University of Leeds and the Mandela Community Centre on Chapeltown Road.

Cases in both areas are particularly high among 18-24 year olds, rather than school aged children, who are mostly unvaccinated and who may have been seeing friends and socialising more in recent weeks.

Ahead of the testing, everyone eligible for a vaccine across Leeds is being urged to get their jab as soon as they can, with appointments now open to everyone over 18.



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Council officers carrying photo ID will be visiting the parts of both areas where cases have been particularly high, explaining the testing process, answering any questions and giving residents of all ages the chance to take a test at home.

People will also be reminded to enjoy summer safely by sticking to the rule of six indoors when meeting friends, letting in plenty of fresh air and watching fixtures at the Euros responsibly and in line with government guidance.

LFD testing scheme for close contacts

Persons cannot choose to do this outside of the study - NHS Test and Trace will invite people who have been traced as a contact to take part in the study, providing they do not have symptoms/

Pupils are not eligible for this study as it is only for people who are traced as contacts and who :

- *do not have COVID-19 symptoms,*
- *live in England,*
- ***are not in full-time education,***
- *are aged 18 and over,*
- *are not under the quarantine rules for arriving in England.*

There are testing kits available in school, which can be collected during pick up and drop off times. Parents are also able to obtain FREE testing kits from the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or at your local pharmacy.

Pupils and staff should not come into school if they have Covid-19 symptoms or have tested positive for Covid 19. Anyone with symptoms should arrange to have a test. School must be informed if someone in your household displays symptoms.

Children who are self-isolating will be requested to access learning via Teams during their isolation period, until their return to school after 10 days.

If you need any further clarification on these issues then please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Sullivan
Principal



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