

To all Parents/Carers

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Please note: This letter is re-issued due to an error in the previous letter. Please disregard any copies of the letter you may have received.

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for everything you have done to keep your family and your community safe so far during the coronavirus pandemic and for your support for our local schools. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet over and cases of COVID continue to be high in the London Borough of Richmond.

Since half term, we have seen a significant rise in the number of children and young people testing positive for COVID which has resulted in school outbreaks. If rates of infection continue to rise, this could eventually lead to significant pressure on the NHS and the ability for people to get much needed appointments and treatment.

Our local data shows us that covid easily spreads in households, and so cases in children can lead to rising infection rates in adults, and of course older adults tend to be more vulnerable to the effects of both COVID and flu. The rate of new infections in adults aged 25-59 is also rising.

As we move forward to winter and start looking forward to a festive season where we can hopefully see our friends and family, we need your help.

Over the weeks and months ahead, I ask all of you to remember that:

- Children or families that come into contact with a positive case, should obtain a PCR test. You can book your test here: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- In the meantime, your child can still continue to go to school, (unless they have been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron Variant), but we suggest that they complete daily lateral flow tests until the result of the PCR test is confirmed. You can find out where to access lateral flow tests here: [Lateral flow testing in Richmond - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)
- Children who receive a positive result using a lateral flow test should stay home from school and book a PCR test to confirm their result, even if they do not have symptoms. You can book a test here: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- Children who are unwell should stay at home. If the symptoms might be COVID, they should stay home and take a PCR test.

It is also important that we continue to regularly practice the other safety measures that we have all become so used to. Therefore, I ask you to remind your children of:

- the importance of regular hand washing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser when soap and water are not readily available.
- “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” messages to encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and dispose of it in the nearest waste bin.

It is vitally important that you take care of yourselves as we move into winter. If you haven't had your COVID-19 vaccine yet, or your booster / flu jab if eligible, please don't delay. There are plenty of locations across the Borough to book an appointment. Appointments can be booked at a local venue, go to: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Thank you for everything you and all our schools have been doing, we need one last big push now to get through winter, protect the health of the most vulnerable in Richmond and all look forward to a Christmas we can enjoy.

Stay Healthy

Shannon Katiyo FFPH
Director of Public Health
Richmond Council