

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

28 May 2021

Dear Parent

I am writing to you regarding a letter I received from Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, dated 26 May 2021.

The letter cites the recent increase in the number of Covid-19 cases within Sefton, particularly related to the variant first detected in India, and urges that people living and working in Sefton continue to follow prevention and control measures. Students should continue to self-test using LFD tests twice a week and ensure they have self-tested prior to returning to school on Tuesday 8 June 2021. If your child will run out of test kits during half term, please [refer to Miss Butterworth's letter here](#) about where you can collect free home test kits locally. Furthermore, all people over the age of 16 who work, live or study in Formby should visit one of the mobile testing sites to access an asymptomatic PCR test. Further information about the location of these sites and open times can be found at www.sefton.gov.uk/variant-india.

Due to the increase in the number of new variant cases in Sefton, any individual who is required to self-isolate as a consequence of being in close contact with a positive case (either within school or elsewhere) or any member of their household is advised to access a PCR test. Even if the close contact's PCR test result is negative, he/she should continue to self-isolate for 10 days. The reason for introducing PCR testing for close contacts is to ensure that any additional cases can be identified, including when people have no symptoms. The identification and isolation of positive cases will prevent onward transmission and help minimise the case rates within the Borough. Those who are self-isolating should not attend a mobile test centre for a PCR test, instead they should book a test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. When booking a test, the following instructions should be followed:

- The person booking the test will be asked to identify whether he/she has Covid-19 symptoms. If he/she has no symptoms, he/she should select 'No' for this answer and proceed through the questions until they get to the question: '*Why are you asking for a test?*'
- The person booking the test should select the box that says: '*I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional*' and then the option that states: '*My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms*'
- He/She can then proceed to book the test.

I trust this information is helpful and thank you for your ongoing support. Whilst the picture is generally looking much more promising, we continue to have members of the school community contracting Covid-19 and this results in those who have been in close contact having to self-isolate. If we continue to play our part it should help in reducing the infection rate locally and contribute to the wider national effort.

If you have any queries regarding the information outlined above, please visit [NHS online](#) or contact the NHS helpline on 119.

Yours sincerely

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