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Educating, Enabling, Evolving

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Dear families

Covid-19 Kingston Update

We have been informed by Public Health Kingston, and you may already be aware, that cases of Covid-19 have increased in the recent weeks across the borough.

Within this rise, the greatest increase in case numbers in Kingston has been in school age children and young adults. Data suggests that the rise may be linked to the national rise seen in the new 'Delta' variant (first identified in India). This variant of the COVID-19 virus is even more highly transmissible.

Action within Kingston

With the return to schools this week, prompt and additional action is needed to control the spread of COVID-19. Public Health England have agreed the following during the period 8-29 June:-

- increased targeted testing
- mass PCR testing in all Kingston schools
- surge vaccination – please see this link to book a test if you are 30 years of age or older
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

PCR Testing

The hope is that by testing pupils, staff and households on their return to school, we can help to minimise the spread within the school and the wider community.

All Kingston schools will receive PCR tests for all staff and all students. The tests will be sent home for you to test your child; details of how PCR tests will be distributed to the rest of your household will follow shortly. If you are able to do this, you can do the test once up each nostril rather than at the back of the throat and one nostril if that helps, and return the test to school the following day. All tests will be collected from school and sent for processing.

Support for positive test results or self-isolation

Local support is available to anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been told to self-isolate, or whose child has to self-isolate. The support will help with access to food and medicine deliveries, financial assistance if eligible, and support with health and wellbeing.

This help is separate to the nationally advertised support scheme, and can be accessed by visiting www.kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-needhelp or calling 020-8547 -5000.

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Further Reassurance

I want to reassure you that staff will continue to take part in twice weekly rapid lateral flow testing (we advise staff to do their tests on Sunday and Wednesday evenings). Regular visitors to school are also asked to test in this way. Dysart students from year 7 and above have also been able to take part in this, should they wish, for some time. We are now offering this to our younger students should families want to test at home. Kits sent home from school will be monitored and are only available for testing on Dysart students. Please see the link below for taking a lateral flow test.

https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/11/LFD_NHSStaff_A4_161120_.pdf

Staff continue to wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the building and in the car part at start and end of day.

Further communication will be sent to you once we have been given further guidance.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Edser
Principal