



17th November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You may have seen in the news recently that Staffordshire will be increasing the testing of residents in a bid to identify more cases of Covid-19 and reduce the spread of infection.

We are one of several local authorities to sign up for an early roll out of new rapid turnaround tests. Staffordshire are also expanding our advice around when to get a test. Please be aware that this advice is from Staffordshire alone and residents in other local authorities may have differing advice given to them. This is all targeted at specific areas and relates directly to where you reside.

Currently anyone who has one of the main symptoms of high temperature, new dry, persistent cough or loss of taste or smell must self-isolate immediately and book a test. This will remain in place until we are instructed otherwise by the Government.

However, with many people displaying other symptoms, Staffordshire local authority are asking residents to consider getting tested as a precaution if they have other symptoms such as:

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

People with any of these symptoms can carry on going to school or work and only need to self-isolate if the test comes back positive. If this is the case, then the usual systems of 'Track and Trace' and isolation will then be put in place to contain the spread of the virus.

The local authority wants to ensure as many people as possible consider getting a test, even if it is merely a precaution. The national testing centres across the county have good availability, and can be booked through the [NHS website](#). People booking a test through this website need to check the 'My council has asked me to get a test' option.

They also have community testing sites that change on a weekly basis. People can view if there are any sites set up near them by visiting [the Staffordshire testing website](#).

We want to reassure our school community that we are doing everything in our power to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, staff and parents by following every precaution and safety measure. We will continue to give out advice as we see fit, given to us by the Government and the Local Authority. If you wish to discuss this new advice any further, then you must contact Staffordshire LA, not the school office.

Thank you one again for your continued support.

Kind regards
Mrs Diane Raftery
Headteacher

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