



14th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Slough will be carrying out additional Covid-19 testing after the Delta variant, was found in the community. All schools and colleges in Slough are subjected to surge testing, there will also be specific sites around Slough where residents can be tested and door to door testing in certain postcode areas.

Since the 29th May, there have been 15 confirmed positive students' cases at Wexham. Mainly in two Year 9 'bubbles' that are isolating. Students in these 'bubbles' were asked by Public Health England to take additional PCR tests which found other asymptomatic cases and reflect the high number of cases in a short time. We also have two Year 7 'bubbles' isolating due a student in each testing positive. Two further cases in different year groups have been reported but these students had not been in school because they were unwell before we returned from half term and therefore no classes are isolating. We wish everyone that is unwell a speedy recovery.

We have been asked to take part in additional testing, using a 'PCR test' which is processed in a laboratory. These tests allow Public Health England (PHE) help control the spread of the new Delta variant, the variant first identified in India. There is currently no evidence that this variant causes more severe illness or that it makes vaccines less effective. The Government believes that this variant is more transmissible than the previous one – in other words it passes more easily from person to person. Although the risk to the wider community is considered low, as a precaution, Slough, working in collaboration with Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace, is taking swift and decisive action to deploy additional surge testing in the targeted area.

To help keep our friends, family and colleagues safe, PHE we will be providing testing kits to all students' and staff through school. **These kits must be taken home, the test conducted that evening, it must be registered and it must be returned to school the next morning.** Students will not be allowed to re-enter school unless they are returning a test so the information below is vital to be noted.

- **If you have not consented to your child using LFT but wish them to have a PCR test to bring home, please contact us by calling reception and letting us know or emailing post@wexham.slough.sch.uk. If not we will not give one to your child and they will continue to attend school as normal.**
- **If you have consented to LFT but DO NOT want them to have a PCR test, please contact us by calling reception and letting us know or emailing post@wexham.slough.sch.uk. If not we will give one to your child and it would be a shame as this could be used by someone else and will delay your child re-entering school.**
- **If you have not consented to LFT and do not wish them to have a PCR test you do not need to do anything and your child will continue to attend school as normal.**
- **Students do not have to stay at home whilst waiting for their test result, unless they are unwell or isolating.**
- **Students that are currently isolating due to a close contact must remain at home and are not part of this scheme unless PHE, through us, have asked you to book a PCR.**
- **Year 11 and 13 students who are currently not attending school are not part of this scheme but should take part in any door step testing.**



I encourage all parents to have their child tested but there has to be consent. I have been made aware that after the last two sets of LFTs we have provided some students discarded their kits and parents never contacted us to say they had not been received. This is disappointing. I know the vast majority of parents and children are conducting tests regularly to help keep us all safe, thank you. However, if you have consented you must conduct the tests because this is not entering into the community spirit of us working together. If you wish to withdraw consent please let us know.

We are yet to receive confirmation of when PCR tests will arrive in school but I have asked for the school to be a priority. However, PHE have not identified an outbreak at Wexham so other schools will be higher up the list. Surge testing will be taking place over the next three weeks so it will be at some point during this time. In the meantime please continue twice weekly testing using the LFTs.

When tests arrive in school we will distribute these to your child to bring home and we will text all parents to let you know. Tests must be conducted the evening they are received, tests must be registered following the instructions that come with them, tests must then be returned to school the next morning.

To receive your test result, you must register your test. After you have completed your test, go to <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit> or call 119. The test result will be then communicated directly to you.

If you test positive, have any symptoms, or are contact traced following contact with someone who tests positive, then you should self-isolate immediately in line with the guidance on GOV.UK.

The more cases we find, the better chance we have at stopping it spreading. Please help to keep our school safer by participating in the testing.

The same national guidance continues to apply in areas where new variants have been identified and education settings can remain open. All pupils and staff should continue to follow national guidance, including **'hands, face, space, fresh air'** and take a rapid LFD Covid-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Information on surge testing for variants of Covid-19 - Surge testing for new coronavirus (COVID-19) variants -GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Information on self-isolation: Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection -GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)