

Dr Richard Harling  
Director of Health & Care  
Staffordshire County Council  
No 1 Staffordshire Place  
Stafford  
ST16 2LP

*Postal Address:  
Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH*

Our Ref: RH/GS/TMF

15 April 2021

Dear parent/guardian,

I hope you had a good Easter break, and your children are looking forward to returning to school for the summer term.

Since my last letter to you, the government have announced several changes to their testing offer. These changes are designed to make it easier for people to continue testing their household and any children aged 11+ twice a week.

Anyone, regardless of their association with a school or nursery, can now collect free lateral flow tests from a government testing centre. Tests can also be collected at a local community testing centre. Full details of all the options and how to book can be found at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Lateral flow tests are for testing people who aren't showing any symptoms of Covid-19. If your child is displaying one of the [three classic symptoms or the wider precautionary symptoms of Covid-19](#), they will need to isolate and get a PCR test at one of the government testing sites.

In a change to previous government advice, anyone (including children) who has had a positive lateral flow test, regardless of whether this was done at home, school or a community testing centre, will now need to go for a PCR test to confirm the result. You should also report this immediately to your school, as this will allow them to determine quickly whether they need to isolate classes, or bubbles, and minimise the risk of any further potential spread.

Anyone who has been in contact with a positive case has to isolate. The government has recently announcement that contacts of a positive case will now be offered a PCR test which they can book through [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). This testing will be via a home PCR testing kit. They will still have to isolate for 10 days even if the PCR test is negative.



I have attached an updated flow chart which reflects the change in advice.

Finally, it has been confirmed by government that face coverings must continue to be worn by secondary school pupils in the new term. This rule will stay in place until at least 17 May. Please encourage your child to continue to wear their face covering unless they are exempt.

Thank you for everything you are doing to help keep your loved ones safe, and children learning in school.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Harling MBE**  
**FFPH, MBBS, MSc**  
**Director of Health and Care**

