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Nottingham
City Council

Public Health
Nottingham City Council
Via email

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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Dear Head Teacher,

Preparation for autumn term

Cases of COVID-19 in children and young people have remained relatively static over the summer holiday. It remains as important as ever that we continue to suppress transmission of the virus as schools return for the autumn term.

You will be aware that the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#) was updated on 17 August 2021. The revised guidance includes an update to the [contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#). We thought it might be helpful to provide some more information on a couple of key areas.

Schools with Y7 and above – preparing for LFD testing at the start of autumn term

The updated [COVID-19 operational guidance for schools](#) includes details of testing arrangements until 30 September. As children and young people will have mixed with other people during the summer holiday, all secondary school pupils and post-16 students should receive 2 **on-site** lateral flow device (LFD) tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. This includes newly arriving Year 7s. Settings may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. **Schools will need to order the test kits in advance to be able to complete this process.**

Further information on how to order test kits is available at [RP127.1 How To Guide for Reordering Kit.pdf - Google Drive](#). You will also need to plan the on-site testing arrangements and invite students into school to participate. Secondary aged pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the Government. School staff, in both primary and secondary settings, should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

All schools

On-site testing is not required for children in Y6 and below. However, as part of the 'return to school' communication, all schools could remind parents/carers of the importance of getting tested regularly and how to get a test. The following text might assist with this:

Approximately 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. It is important to take regular twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests to stop the spread of infection. You can drop in and get a free rapid test, or collect a box of tests to take at home, at any of the local asymptomatic testing centres. Further information on the centres, including opening times, is available at: [Get a COVID-19 Test - Nottingham City Council](#).

Tests can also be accessed from many workplaces and pharmacies. To find a pharmacy near you that offers this service, go to: [Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](#).

If you are unable to access tests through these routes, you can order a pack of 7 tests online at: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Outbreak management

The revised contingency framework sets out thresholds which, when the first of these is met, should prompt extra action. Extra action might include the review of testing, hygiene and ventilation measures. Depending on the circumstances, and in discussion with Nottingham City Council Public Health, action might also include measures such as the temporary reintroduction of face coverings in communal spaces and/or asking children who are the contact of a household case to isolate/not attend school.

Education setting thresholds

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:

- 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

Please inform Nottingham City Council Public Health if your school meets a threshold by emailing the team at CoronaVirusQueries@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

Thank you for all your work to keep your schools safe and we appreciate you are doing everything within your power to prioritise the health and education of our children during these extremely challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Hubber
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Nottingham City Council

John Dexter
Director of Education, Children and
Families, Nottingham City Council