

Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH

Date: 22 October 2021

Ref: Covid tests

Dear Parent/Carer

Testing for Covid-19 before start of term

Thank you for your continued support through what we appreciate may have been a challenging start to the autumn term. Many schools have experienced outbreaks of Covid-19 which we know is worrying for both children and their parents/carers.

We know how important it is for your children's education to keep pupils in school. We are therefore asking for your support in encouraging your children to take a lateral flow test the day before they return to school, at the end of the half term school holiday.

Lateral flow rapid tests are free of charge and can be ordered for delivery directly to your home via www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests. Alternatively you can collect a free box of test kits from your local pharmacy.

The test is easy to do and only takes a few minutes and you will get the results within 30 minutes. If you are unsure of how to carry out the test there are videos explaining the process which you might find helpful: www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help.

Please report all results even if they are negative or void. You can do this online www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or via NHS 119.

We would strongly encourage your family to take part in testing. Many people are infectious without knowing that they have the virus as they might not show any symptoms. Testing before returning to school is a good way of protecting your family and the wider school community.

Thank you for your support.
Yours sincerely



Sangeeta Leahy

Director of Public Health