

Reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have all been working very hard to support the safe return to onsite education for all students, and we are looking forward to having all students back on site once again.

To further support this safe return all secondary aged students are being offered regular Lateral Flow Tests (or LFT). Students have been offered 3 tests in school so that they learn the proper technique, and from then testing will be done at home.

I strongly urge you to encourage your child to take up this opportunity and help us slow the spread of coronavirus in our city. Coronavirus has impacted all of us but the effects on our young people's education has been particularly significant. Our children need to go back to school to receive their full education and that could be affected if our rates are still high.

Regular testing, as well as following all of the other essential public health advice (including wearing of face coverings, maintaining social distancing and regular hand washing), is vital to ensure that we exit lockdown. Testing is vital so we can identify people, who have no symptoms, with coronavirus, and then isolate them to slow the spread and prevent outbreaks.

If your child has a positive test then they must, along with all the people that they live with, isolate – this means no one can leave the house for 10 days, support is available to you if you need it (email c19support@leicester.gov.uk if you need support whilst you isolate).

The testing programme is totally free, and tests will be given to your child to bring home. You will be asked to supervise their test and submit their results via the app.

For more information about the testing programme for Leicester schools please go to our website [School arrangements - back to school \(COVID-19\) \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/school-arrangements-back-to-school-covid-19/)

Remember if you or a member of your family show any of the symptoms of coronavirus you must isolate and book a test.

The main symptoms are:

- High temperature
- new continuous cough
- Loss or change to sense of taste
- Loss or change to sense of smell.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for following the national and local guidelines, we know that this past year has not been easy on you.

If we continue to work together, we can slow the spread and exit lock down.

Yours faithfully

Ivan Browne
Director of Public Health, Leicester City Council