

Director of Public Health Office
Sheffield Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH
www.sheffield.gov.uk



14th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who is following guidance to help stop the spread of Coronavirus in our city. What you are doing is making a difference and helping to keep Sheffield open.

I know there is some confusion about the two types of Covid test now available:

- The rapid lateral flow (LFD) tests that all parents and secondary/college age children should now be doing at home twice a week
- The PCR tests that are booked online or by calling 119 and are usually taken at test centres

What is the difference between the two types of Covid test?

It is important that you understand the difference between these two tests as they should be used in different ways.

The rapid LFD tests are only to be used if you/your children **do not** have symptoms. They are designed to identify positive cases of Coronavirus in people who do not have symptoms. They are very useful but not 100% accurate so sometimes return a false negative result.

If you get symptoms, or test positive with a rapid LFD test, you **must** self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

Why should you take the rapid LFD tests?

Around 1 in 3 people with Coronavirus do not have symptoms and are spreading the virus without realising it.

By taking a test twice a week, and self-isolating/booking a PCR test if positive, you and your children are helping to break the chains of transmission and stop the spread.

The only way we can keep Sheffield open, and keep the Government's roadmap for easing even more restrictions on track, is by stopping the spread.

The best way you can help us get back to a more 'normal' school setting is to take up the offer of a vaccination when you are offered it.

Every vaccination gives us hope. If you have been vaccinated that is great news, but it is still important that you continue to follow Covid guidance. Full protection kicks in around a week or two after your second dose, which is why it's important that when you do get invited, you act on that and get yourself booked in as soon as possible.

Being vaccinated doesn't protect you completely, but it is our best defence in our fight against this pandemic.

What can you do to reduce Covid-19 in your community?



Financial support is available for those who have to self-isolate, including parents and guardians of self-isolating children. For more details, and to apply, go to <https://bit.ly/scc-covid-support>

For more information on Covid tests, please go to <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/coronavirus-testing>

Yours sincerely

Greg Fell
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