



Riverside College
Kingsway
Widnes
WA8 7QQ

If you telephone, please ask for Public Health Team
0151 511 5200
Your ref

Cronton Sixth Form College
Cronton Lane
Widnes
WA8 5WA

Date 16th August 2021
E-mail address public.health@halton.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to explain the changes to national policies on COVID-19 self-isolation and testing in schools and colleges and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in College this term. This letter also explains what you should do if your son/daughter gets COVID-19 or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Whilst we continue to manage COVID-19 in our communities, as a local authority we aim to do all we can to make sure all young people in Halton can keep going to school and college with minimal disruption to their learning. This is especially important as we move into the Autumn term and also see more coughs, colds and other winter bugs. We all have a part to play and we are grateful for your continuing support.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16th August, people who are under 18 years and 6 months, or who are fully vaccinated, will no longer legally need to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, they are advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test, unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

However, anyone (regardless of age or vaccination status) who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms ((high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell) must get a PCR test, as soon as possible, and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must then continue to isolate as usual.

PLANS FOR COVID-19 TESTING IN COLLEGE AND AT HOME

All College students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return to College at the start of the Autumn term.

Students should then continue to take lateral flow (LFD) tests **at home, twice per week until the end of September**. This will then be reviewed. College will provide packs of LFD tests for students to take home.

It's all happening **IN HALTON**

Public Health
Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TD
Tel: 0303 333 4300
www.halton.gov.uk



By making sure your son/daughter correctly carries out the lateral flow tests twice a week, it will help us to spot and stop the spread of COVID-19 amongst students - protecting each other and preventing disruption to your son's/daughter's education. This testing will also be important to help us to know if students have COVID-19, a cough/cold or other bugs. Please **see below** for what to do if your son/daughter has a positive LFD test.

We will provide further details in due course on whether testing will continue beyond September.

WHAT TO DO IF.....

Your son/daughter develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If anyone develops any of these symptoms, they must arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the www.nhs.uk website, through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119 (NHS Test & Trace) if you do not have internet access. **Please see below for information on local test centres.**

ACCESSING PCR COVID-19 TESTING IN HALTON

Testing for people with COVID-19 symptoms and close contacts:

PCR tests are available 7 days a week, from 8am – 8pm, at:

- *The Heath Business and Technical Park, Weston, Runcorn, WA7 4QX*
- *The Brindley car park (behind St Paul's Health Centre), Runcorn Old Town, WA7 1AQ*
- *Former Police Station/Magistrates site (opposite Riverside College), Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QJ*
- *John Lennon Airport Speke, Liverpool, L24 1YD*
- *Mobile testing sites*

Please pre-book tests at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by phoning 119.

If a student has any of the above COVID-19 symptoms they should self-isolate immediately and should not attend College. **Please phone the College to inform them that your son/daughter has COVID-19 symptoms, and you are waiting for a COVID-19 PCR test result.**

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What should I do if my son's/daughter's COVID-19 PCR test has come back positive?

Anyone with a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the start of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your son/daughter should not go to College, attend any out-of-college activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please remember to phone the College and tell them your child has received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result. It is really important that you let the College know if your son/daughter has COVID-19, so we can monitor the number of students with COVID-19.

What to do if you are a contact of someone with COVID-19?

If your son/daughter is **aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19** (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell) **they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.**

Your son/daughter is advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

What to do if a lateral flow device (LFD) test is positive?

Following a positive result on a lateral flow device test, your son/daughter should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other people who live in the same house do not need to self-isolate whilst you wait for the PCR test result, as long as they do not have symptoms **and** are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

If anyone is unwell but doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms?

Your son/daughter should not go to College if they are unwell. If you are worried, speak to your GP or a pharmacist, who will be able to advise you how long your son/daughter should stay off College. Otherwise, we would recommend they stay at home for 48 hours or until they feel better. At the moment people do not need to get a PCR test if they do not have any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The College and Halton Borough Council will work together to keep you updated throughout the term, as needed. More information and advice can also be found on the College's and Halton Borough Council website (www.halton.gov.uk).

I hope you keep safe and well and I thank you again for continuing to support the battle against COVID 19 in Halton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Vasic'.

Mil Vasic
Strategic Director, People

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