



Hall Green School An Academy

26 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

School community urged to get tested for COVID-19 by Public Health experts

I am writing to you again to ask for your support to help our school remain a safe environment for your children and our staff members, and to help protect your wider community.

As you know, recently a small number of cases of the COVID-19 variant of concern first found in India (VOC-21APR-02) was found in members of our school communities in Hall Green Infant and Hall Green Junior Schools. The Public Health team at Birmingham City Council and the Health Protection Team at Public Health England (PHE) Midlands are satisfied that both schools have done everything possible to provide a COVID-secure environment for pupils and staff members. However, at this stage of the pandemic, with further relaxation of restrictions at the same time as the circulation of new variant strains of COVID-19, it is vital that people realise **everyone has a part to play in controlling the virus**.

People must take individual responsibility for their actions and that of their families, when taking advantage of the new freedoms they have. While the school is behaving responsibly, it is up to every member of the school community, outside of school hours, to also take responsibility for controlling the virus.

This variant is easier to spread and catch, and there are still lots of people who may have the virus but show no symptoms (asymptomatic), and many still waiting to get their COVID-19 vaccines. This means there is a much higher risk of passing this virus to our loved ones – including elderly relatives and those with long-term medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to getting severe symptoms, and potentially needing hospitalisation. That is why it so **important that members of our school community and their families take up the offer of testing, which has been organised by the public health professionals**.

Your child should have received 2 PCR test kits and have completed these. If they have not received them, they should speak to a member of staff in the school office as a matter of urgency.

All completed tests can be returned to the following sites:

- Hall Green School, Southam Road, Birmingham B28 0AA
- Alfred Road Car Park, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 4PB
- Saltley Health and Wellbeing Centre, Birmingham B9 5YD
- Lifford House, 45 Fordhouse Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 3BN

For those returning completed tests to school, please remember these will need to be dropped off no later than **Friday 28 June** after this date school will be closed for the half term break.

With half term approaching, we want to remind people to enjoy time with family and friends in a responsible way – because the virus has NOT gone away. It is only by taking individual responsibility that we will control the virus and return to much more normal lives.

The Public Health professionals have therefore asked us to remind you:

- to continue to follow *Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air* advice
- isolate if you have even mild symptoms of COVID-19 and get a test
- if you have COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone with the virus, isolate for 10 days
- if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you must also isolate for 10 days
- isolating means NOT going out for any reason – shopping/work/school/visiting family or friends – and not letting others enter your home while you are isolating
- wear a face covering when in enclosed public spaces including on public transport and in taxis
- have no more than 6 people or 2 households meet indoors – and keep some distance where possible
- open windows to let fresh air into homes and vehicles – to blow particles of the virus away
- meeting outdoors is safest – and groups of up to 30 can meet outdoors now
- if you are going out regularly and mixing with people at school/work etc., then take up the twice-weekly free rapid testing available
- get tested when advised, including any local surge testing or targeted wider testing in your area – **like we are asking members of our school community to do now.**

If we all take responsibility to look after ourselves, our loved ones, and our community, then we can all play a part in controlling the virus and getting back to a much greater normality.

Yours faithfully



Miss K Slater
Headteacher

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