

PCR tests for Lambeth school pupils

Response to local rise in cases in school age children.

We have seen a rise in Covid-19 cases in the secondary school age population. It is possible that this rise is due to an increase in variants of concern circulating in London, in particular B1.617.2 the variant first detected in India. As a PCR test is required to detect variants we are making it easier for pupils to access PCR tests. All families should continue to test twice weekly using rapid tests through the half term period and prior to returning to school.

We are providing all local secondary schools and selected primary schools with PCR test kits which can go home with pupils over the half term period. These do NOT need to be returned to school.

When to use a PCR test

Pupils should use these tests in the following situations:

- If they have a positive Lateral Flow Test (rapid) test (to confirm the result and enable testing for variants)
- If they feel unwell with symptoms which could be related to Covid-19
- If anyone else in the household has a positive Covid-19 test or they have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19 (this does not remove requirement to self isolate in these situations)

Additional tests can also be ordered online or if preferred you can attend a testing site via the national website. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

How to return tests kits

Tests can be returned by royal mail using a [priority post box](#). The kit will need to be registered online prior to being returned at <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit>

Self isolation support

Any families who need to self isolate due to symptoms or a positive Covid-19 test within the household will be offered financial and practical support to self isolate. [Advice and help to self-isolate | Lambeth Council](#)

Vaccination

Lambeth has seen an increase in cases in the adults who are parents of secondary school age children so would recommend that everyone eligible accesses a vaccination as soon as possible.

If you are over 30 years old you can already book a vaccination through the national booking system at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination> or by calling 119 free of charge.

If you had your first dose more than 8 weeks ago you can also bring your second dose forward through the same site. Appointments are available on the national booking system at local hospitals, pharmacies and at other sites across Lambeth and London.