



July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

**I am writing to ask for your continued support over the summer holidays for twice-weekly testing of everyone in your household over the age of 10.**

This is part of a wider appeal I am making to the whole county to keep going with testing.

The Government has announced it plans to remove most legal restrictions from 19 July and the vaccination programme is going well. But rates of Covid in Norfolk are climbing, particularly amongst children and young people so testing and sensible precautions are still important.

**Twice-weekly testing, even if you have no symptoms, along with Hands, Face, Space precautions are vital to slow this spread of the virus and keep numbers of new infections as low as possible.**

Testing is really important because it helps us find cases early. If we can minimise the spread, we can greatly reduce the likelihood of the most vulnerable people in our communities getting Covid.

Members of our communities including grandparents and people of all ages with underlying health conditions are more likely to become seriously unwell, even if they have been fully vaccinated.

I would like to thank you for all you have done so far in supporting your children with their twice weekly tests during term time. But we do need to keep going to do all we can to avoid future lockdowns and ensure our families and our loved ones stay safe and well.

### **How to get testing kits**

Over the summer holidays schools will not be providing testing kits or recording the results as they have been during term time. However, it is still easy for you to get testing kits. They are widely available at all our Norfolk pharmacies and some libraries or you can order them online. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidtesting](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidtesting) and click on 'Testing for people without symptoms' to find the easiest way for you to get your kits.

### **Remember to record your results**

It is really important that all test results, whether positive, negative or void, are reported as soon as the tests are completed or, if this is not possible, within 24

hours. This can be done quickly and easily online by visiting [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Test results can also be reported by calling the phone number in the test kit's instructions.

Reporting all results, whether positive, negative or void, is important because it helps my team, and the NHS better understand the spread of COVID-19. Scientists use the information to spot outbreaks more quickly and accurately, helping us get back to normal.

Thank you for all your help and for your support with testing to keep Norfolk residents and families safe this summer.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Louise Smith', written in a cursive style.

**Dr S. J. Louise Smith, MB, ChB, PhD, FFPH**

Director of Public Health

Norfolk County Council

**PROTECT OURSELVES. PROTECT OTHERS. PROTECT NORFOLK.**