

**Public Health and
Children, Families &
Education**

Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID MITIGATIONS IN PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS

Thank you for all you have done over the last two year to support your child's education and minimise the spread of coronavirus in your community. We are sorry to have to write to you again about coronavirus. Unfortunately we are seeing very high, and increasing, levels of coronavirus in our communities in Portsmouth, as we are across the South East Region.

In order to try to keep schools open we are giving our full support to Portsmouth schools that need to put in extra measures to reduce the spread of coronavirus. These measures can include:

- Asking adults and secondary aged pupils to wear face coverings in communal areas in the school;
- Encouraging parents to wear face coverings when collecting or dropping off their children if social distancing cannot be maintained;
- Taking steps to limit mixing between classes/ year groups where this can be done without adversely affecting curriculum delivery, and reintroducing "bubbles" where there is an outbreak in a particular group;
- Keeping under review events with parents and considering delaying these or moving these on-line.

Please ensure that you keep yourself up to date with the measures being taken by your child's school, and talk to your child about the rules and why it is important to follow them.

Unfortunately, the high level of coronavirus absence amongst staff means that some schools have not been able to remain open to all pupils, and some groups have had to move to remote learning for short periods. Schools are doing all they can to provide face to face teaching for all pupils, but with infection levels as high as they are there may be some continuing disruption through the last two weeks of term.

Free lateral flow tests for Portsmouth residents from 1 April

With universal access to free COVID-19 testing ending on 31 March, Portsmouth City Council will offer free test kits for Portsmouth residents who want to continue to protect others.

From 1 April, each household in Portsmouth will be eligible to claim up to one box of five tests per month from April to June, while stocks last. Bring your proof of address to one of nine locations across Portsmouth. More details are available on the Council's website:

www.portsmouth.gov.uk/freecovidtests

You can also buy COVID tests from local pharmacies and online.

Yours sincerely



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