



# WARRINGTON

## Borough Council

Professor Steven Broomhead  
Chief Executive

Letter to Parents and Carers

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Dear Parents and Carers

We wanted to thank you as parents and carers for your support during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that this time has been difficult for many of you as well as the young people you care for.

Over this October half term, we would ask you for your continued support to make sure pupils and students to stay safe and protect themselves and others by enjoying half term responsibly.

We know that many children and young people will want to go out and see their friends during October half term. However, the number of COVID-19 cases in Warrington schools are rising and we ask that families take extra caution this half term to protect loved ones and the wider community.

In light of the rising case numbers, we are strongly advising that before returning to school pupils in Years 5 and 6 take a lateral flow device (LFD) test the night before they return to school. These LFD tests are designed to pick up those cases that have no symptoms and who are therefore potentially spreading Covid unknowingly. If all Y5 and Y6 pupils take a test before returning to school after the half-term break this will help to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

We are also recommending that if there is a case of COVID-19 in your household:

- All high school and college aged young people in the household take an LFD test **each day** for the isolation period of the household case.
- All Y5 and Y6 aged children take a daily LFD test whilst awaiting the result of a PCR

Anyone who test positive on an LFD test should self-isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible.

LFD tests can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or your local pharmacy.

When enjoying half-term please remember the simple measures we can all do to protect ourselves and our loved ones:

- Wash hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water.



- “Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.” - Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, bin immediately after use and wash hands thoroughly.



- If you develop any **symptoms of COVID-19** (including a high temperature, a persistent cough and a loss of smell or taste), no matter how mild, you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test either online or by calling 119.



- **Continue regular, twice weekly, lateral flow tests during half term.** These tests are for individuals who do not have symptoms of Covid-19. Around 1 in 3 people who get infected with COVID-19 do not show symptoms and so can unknowingly pass on the virus.



- If socialising with friends this half term, wherever possible – **enjoy the outdoors!** There are lots of fun and safe activities that can be enjoyed so why not make the most of Warrington’s green spaces and parks this half term. If you do meet up indoors, make sure there is a lot of fresh air circulating. Try to leave windows open a small amount continuously, or open them wide regularly for 10 minutes. This will help to recirculate the air and reduce risk of transmission



The continued offer of vaccines to those aged 12-15 during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic remains an important measure to protect children against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 years has started in Warrington, and it is hoped that the take up of this alongside additional protective measures will help to reduce transmission. To support the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in schools, it has recently been announced that 12-15 year-olds will also shortly be able to use the national booking system and get their vaccination at one of the local vaccination sites.

We know that students have missed a lot of time in school and college since the pandemic started and that there is no substitute for in-person teaching. It is a Government priority to keep students in the classroom both for their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

Taking these precautionary measures this half term and before returning to school will help protect you and your loved ones as it is important for us all to continue to do what we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Warrington.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

**Paula Worthington**  
Director, Education, Early Help & Send

**Thara Raj**  
Director of Public Health