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Parents and Carers of Wandsworth Borough

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Wandsworth Council

Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU

Please contact: Community Hub Phone: (020) 8871 6555 Email: covid19support

@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19: New variant in your area - Please get tested now

Wandsworth Council is working with NHS Test and Trace to test everyone living and working in Wandsworth for Covid-19.

As part of Public Health England's proactive sequencing work, PHE has found evidence that the South African variant of Covid-19 has been identified in Wandsworth. All viruses mutate over time and new variants emerge regularly.

Tracking and controlling variants is very important for ensuring the success of the vaccination programme. There is currently no evidence to suggest this variant is more serious than others, or that the regulated vaccine would not protect against it.

Every person living or working in this area over the age of 11 is strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 test as soon as possible, even if they are not showing symptoms. You should also get tested even if you have had the vaccine.

How to get a test

You can collect tests for home use from:

- Battersea Sports Centre 7.30am to 4pm Mon-Fri 10am- 2pm Sat -Sun
- Wandsworth Town Hall (Room 75), Fountain Courtyard
 - 9am to 5pm 7 days a week

Completed tests should be returned to the same collection site.

You can also can **order a home delivery of a PCR test as** part of the variant of concern surge testing in the borough **https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test**

Completed test kits should be returned to community collection points - Battersea Sports Centre and Wandsworth Town Hall (Room 75, Fountain Courtyard) - so they can be processed as part of the surge testing operation.

Please do not return these test kits by post.

Please see overleaf for further information

You can get tested at sites across Wandsworth including 23 pharmacies.

PCR testing is currently available at:

- Mount Clare House, Minstead Gardens, Roehampton
- Tooting Leisure Centre, Greaves Place, Tooting
- Wandsworth Town Hall Car Park, Wandsworth High Street
- Putney Leisure Centre, Dryburgh Road, Putney
- 67 Fernlea Road rear car park
- Martley House rear car park, Patmore Street

Tests at all these sites and the pharmacies are by appointment only.

For more information on opening hours, how these sites operate, which pharmacies are offering tests and to book an appointment visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/surge-testing

Please also check here for updates on testing and the latest information.

How to register your test

Once you have been tested, it's really important that you register your test so you can get your result.

To register their test, people should visit -

https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit

- and have the following information in hand:
- The test kit barcode for the test they are registering
- Personal details, including address, email address and mobile number (for themselves or the person they are registering the kit for)
- The test site postcode if they are getting tested at a test site

If you have symptoms, you can get tested at one of several symptomatic local test sites across Wandsworth. Again, you must book an appointment at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.

You can book online on someone else's behalf if they can't do so themselves. People who are unable to book online, and don't know someone who can book for them, can call 020 8871 6555 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for help.

Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate immediately and pass on details of their contacts to NHS Test and Trace when contacted. Positive tests will then be examined in a laboratory to determine whether any of them are the variant first identified in South Africa. This will help gain a better understanding of how prevalent the variant is and whether community transmission is taking place.

The more cases of the variant we find, the better chance we have at suppressing it. Please help to keep your community safe by getting tested so we can find the variant and protect you and your loved ones.

You can find out more about the financial support which is on offer here: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/discretionary-support-grants

Meanwhile, when leaving your home, please continue to follow the national guidance on current restrictions. If you do need to leave the house please continue to follow the 'hands-face-space' rule. The way to control this virus is the same, whatever the variant. It will not spread if we avoid close contact with others. Wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance from others, and reduce your social contacts.

Kind regards

Shannon Katiyo

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Director of Public Health, Wandsworth Council

For further information please visit:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice www.wandsworth.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine

What support is available?

For those who are struggling with finances as a result of COVID-19, you can apply for the Council's discretionary support grant by visiting: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/discretionary-support-grants

If you test positive and have to self-isolate, visit: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/isolation-payment

If you need urgent support please contact our Community Hub: Call **020 8871 6555**, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or email **covid19support@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk**

To receive the latest updates on the Coronavirus in Wandsworth, sign up for the weekly e-newsletter Brightside Online at wandsworth.gov.uk/chooseyournews



