



## Knowsley Council

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Whilst COVID-19 cases in Knowsley remain high, residents displaying additional symptoms of coronavirus are being asked to get a COVID-19 test until further notice.

The three main COVID-19 symptoms are a high temperature, new or persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell.

But a wider set of symptoms have been identified that are experienced by some people testing positive for the virus. The new flu-like symptoms include body aches, headaches, sore throats, tiredness and shortness of breath. Some people may experience nausea or diarrhoea.

This new advice follows confirmation of a new mutation of COVID-19 – E484K – in the Liverpool City Region and other areas of the North West which is currently being investigated by Public Health England. It is common for viruses to mutate, but we all need to continue to play our part and we are urging anyone who is feeling unwell to get a Covid-19 test, even if they aren't showing the classic symptoms.

Many people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms at all and some display different symptoms than the original ones. COVID-19 is easily transmitted from person to person, so if you display any symptoms (including the additional ones outlined above), please book a test so that we can identify those who have the virus and prevent them from passing it on to others.

Please book a test through [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or ring 119. Please do not attend the borough's SMART testing sites as these should only be used for people who have no symptoms at all.

Remember if you receive a positive test result, then you, people in your household, support bubble and close contacts need to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of your symptoms. It is vital that you self-isolate for the full 10 days to help stop the further transmission of the virus.

When booking online, click the option to say you don't have the classic symptoms but were asked to get a test by their council or health protection team.

Once again, thank you for your continued support in following the rules and the advice being issued.

Yours faithfully

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