

Ask for: David Kilgallon
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Ref: DK/JM/GK/KR
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Dear Parent/Carer

This has been an incredibly challenging year and we are full of admiration for everything you have done to support your child in continuing to access education. Our schools have also been amazing in adjusting to various challenges and remaining open throughout the pandemic.

Arrangements until end of term

As we approach the end of term, the Government announced the country is moving to step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown on 19 July. While many of the legal restrictions will be lifted, the Prime Minister also said that everyone should continue to be cautious as cases of Covid-19 remain high across the country. This is true in Waltham Forest, where more than 100 people are being diagnosed with COVID every day at the moment, and those numbers are still rising quickly.

This is why we have advised all schools in Waltham Forest to keep Covid-19 control arrangements in place until the end of term so that we can continue to protect staff, pupils and their families.

Schools will therefore be able to continue with the measures they are already taking, including to:

- Keep all “bubble” arrangements in place and identifying close contacts of positive Covid-19 cases
- Continue to use face coverings in school
- Stagger start and finish times to the school day
- Maintain social distancing requirements
- Advise parents not to congregate on school sites

These measures will also be in place for all summer activities that are run from school sites. We would really appreciate your support with these measures when Covid-19 infection rates are rising so sharply within our borough.

Testing in advance of return to school in September

We would encourage all pupils who are attending primary school in September to get a test before they come back to school in September. These tests will help to reduce the risk of people without symptoms unknowingly spreading the virus to others in the school and in their community. We strongly encourage anyone they live with to get a test also to make sure that anyone who may be infectious does not come to school with the virus and potentially start an outbreak.

We would suggest that, if possible, you give your child (in Year 1 or above) a **lateral flow test at home**, the day before they return to school. Kits can be collected from over 50 locations across the borough, including your local pharmacy, or ordered online. You can [find more details on the council website](#).

Home tests are not for children in Nursery and Reception – they need to be taken to a test centre. There are four across the borough, with details on the council website above. If your child has tested positive in the last 90 days, they should not take another test as the dead virus may still show in their system, even if they have recovered.

Covid-19 vaccinations

Along with testing, taking the Covid-19 vaccination is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and move out of the pandemic.

You can book your vaccination in your local area, by scanning the below QR code or by calling 0208 496 3000.



By taking your first and second dose of the vaccine when you can, you will get maximum protection against this virus, and will also make you less likely to pass it on to vulnerable loved ones.

You do not need to be registered with a GP to book your vaccine and do not need to bring ID with you.

For more information on the vaccine please visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/covidvaccine

Return in September

Looking forward, it is incredibly difficult for us right now to say how things will develop in September and by the start of the Autumn term. The pandemic is not over so it is reasonable to presume that things will not be “back to normal”. As always, we will work closely with all of our schools to ensure that the return to school is as smooth as possible for everyone.

Until then, your patience and understanding over this last year is very much appreciated and we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kilgallon'.

David Kilgallon
Director of Learning and System Leadership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe McDonnell'.

Joe McDonnell
Director of Public Health