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Direct line: 020 8496 4147  
Ref: DK/JM/GK/KR  
Date: 16 July 2021

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.

### **Home Lateral Flow Testing**

Testing remains important to stop the virus from spreading within our schools and settings. Over the summer, we ask that staff and secondary pupils continue to test regularly if they are attending summer schools and activities based in school settings.

As your child will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils are encouraged to receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Your child’s school will notify you of the arrangements before the beginning of the term with some schools arranging the first test prior to the start of term.

If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms, they must not attend school. We ask that you continue to follow government guidance and keep your child at home and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

We would encourage all adults to continue testing for Covid-19 two times a week as it will offer additional assurance of safety in our community.

Testing is widely available over the summer and 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](#).

### **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.

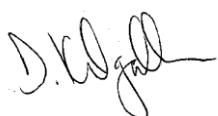
For more information on the vaccine please visit [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/covidvaccine](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/covidvaccine)

### **Return in September**

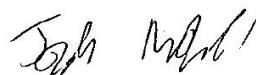
Looking forward, it is incredibly difficult for us right now to say how things will develop in September and by the start of the Autumn term. The pandemic is not over so it is reasonable to presume that things will not be “back to normal”. As always, we will work closely with all of our schools to ensure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



**David Kilgallon**  
Director of Learning and System Leadership



**Joe McDonnell**  
Director of Public Health