

20 October 2020

County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Dear parents and carers,

As we head towards the half-term break, which I'm sure many of you are looking forward to, we thought now would be a good opportunity to thank you for your continued support in playing your part to help keep the virus rate as low as possible in Wiltshire.

After what has been a difficult six months or so, we want you and your family to enjoy the half term break. However, we would hate to see you and your family having to spend it self-isolating due to COVID-19 and all the disruption that brings with it.

We're at the stage now that if you or your family imminently contract the virus then you would have to spend the majority of the half-term break, if not all of it, inside and self-isolating. Therefore, now more than ever it's vital to follow the national advice.

We know there's so much information available and it's hard to keep track, particularly on when or when not to get tested for COVID-19, so we thought we'd re-iterate the main messages.

We've also enclosed a 'what to do guide' which we hope you find useful. It is a step-by-step guide which takes you through various COVID-19 related scenarios and the action you should take in each.

If you have the following COVID-19 symptoms you must self-isolate and get a test done as soon as possible:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You can book at test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

We want to use this as an opportunity to remind you that you should only get a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been asked to get tested.

The easiest way to prevent getting COVID-19 is to keep following the guidance and continue to play your part:

- **Wash hands** – keep washing hands regularly
- **Wear face coverings** in enclosed spaces
- **Make space** – stay at least 2 meters apart or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions
- **Follow** the Rule of Six

And while in normal circumstances the half-term break would be a time for your children to enjoy playdates and sleepovers, we'd encourage you to limit these as much as possible, as this will help reduce the likelihood of more cases emerging.

While the number of people who have COVID-19 in Wiltshire is comparatively lower than other parts of the country, our rates are unfortunately rising, so we can't allow ourselves to get complacent.

We know this has been a difficult year for school communities up and down the county and thank you once again for your support and understanding during this time, we really appreciate it.

Yours sincerely



Kate Blackburn

Director of Public Health for Wiltshire