

Public Health Department
Afton House
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Ailsa Hospital
Dalmellington Road
Ayr KA6 6AB



Date 7 September 2020
Your Ref
Our Ref LMcN/KW

Enquiries to
Extension
Direct line
E-mail
Website www.nhsaaa.net

Dear Parent or Carer

I am writing to you to give you the latest, up-to-date advice on COVID-19 testing and hopefully address some of your concerns and questions.

Since schools returned in the middle of August, there has understandably been a sharp rise in requests for COVID-19 tests, particularly from parents concerned for their children.

However, in order to ensure we do everything we can to prevent a rise in cases, we want to remind people how the testing system works and free up testing for those who really need it.

Firstly, only people who are symptomatic should book a test unless you are asked to get a test by Public Health as part of the management of an outbreak in your community.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature or fever
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If your child develops one of these symptoms then do not send them to school. They (and any household members), should self-isolate whilst your child with symptoms is tested.



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You only need one of the symptoms above to be tested. This can be done by visiting the NHS Inform website – www.nhsinform.scot . (Residents on the Isle of Arran should call 01770 601 033.)

We realise the testing centres have been very busy recently but remember that home testing kits are also available or you can call again the following day to get an appointment for testing.

I also want to stress that while family members (including siblings) need to self-isolate if someone in their household develops symptoms, they do not need to be tested unless they themselves go on to develop symptoms.

If you are contacted by Test and Protect to tell you that you are a close contact of somebody with COVID-19, you do not require a test but you must isolate for 14 days. A test will not change the need to self-isolate.

If your child is asked to stay off school as they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, this does not mean other members of your household need to self-isolate, unless the person self-isolating goes on to develop symptoms.

If you need urgent medical help for you or your child, please call NHS 24 or contact your GP.

For further information, please see the attached parent/carers information leaflet.

If you require help with any questions you have about COVID-19 that are not answered online, or you do not have internet access, please call the free helpline number 0800 028 2816. The helpline is open from 8.00am to 10.00pm each day.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support and patience. We all need to keep working together as we move into the next phase in the fight against this virus.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne McNiven'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynne McNiven
Interim Director of Public Health (Joint)

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