



North Tyneside Council

**Public Health Department
North Tyneside Council
Quadrant
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside
NE27 0BY**

Friday, 4th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In May it was announced that a package of enhanced support would be made available to help tackle the rise of a variant of COVID-19 in North Tyneside.

While there is no current evidence that the Delta Variant (formerly known as the Variant of Concern first identified in India) causes more serious illness and it does not seem to escape the vaccine, it does appear to pass to others more easily.

As schools return after the half term break it is important that every precaution is taken to limit the spread of the variant and minimise the impact on your child's education.

As COVID-19 infection rates continue to slowly rise in North Tyneside and rates are higher in some areas, particularly in and around Shiremoor additional PCR testing continues to be available in the borough at 3 mobile test sites (North Shields and Wallsend town centres and Shiremoor Aldi car park) for anyone who does NOT have symptoms and would like to access a test.

In addition I would also like to encourage all secondary school pupils in year 7 and above to take a test at home on Sunday night (6th June) before they return to school on Monday.

Pupils should not take a test if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

Any pupil with a positive LFT result should self-isolate with their household and inform the school through normal channels and engage with local contact tracing staff when they call to ensure all close contacts can be identified and then self-isolate.

A PCR test is required to confirm the positive result booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. All members of the household will be required to self-isolate for 10 days if the result is positive. You can call North Tyneside Council on 0191 6438000 for support and advice during this time.

I would also encourage pupils in year 7 and above and members of the household to continue to take twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests (LFDs) on an ongoing basis. These

can be collected from many pharmacies across the area or from the Community Collect Site at the Riverside Centre in North Shields.

Thank you for playing your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 within North Tyneside.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Wendy Burke
Director of Public Health
North Tyneside Council