

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Children & Public Health

Director of Public Health: Krishna Ramkhelawon

 Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6ER

 01702 215000

 www.southend.gov.uk

Working to make
lives better
www.southend.gov.uk



Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 15th June 2021

Email:

KrishnaRamkhelawon@southend.gov.uk

Dear parent or carer

Firstly, I want to thank you for your continued support and cooperation with school attendance and testing. I know that it has been a challenging school year with home learning, face coverings, altered school collections and testing, on top of all the other social restrictions this pandemic has brought. However, I hope you know how vitally important it has been and continues to be, for the protection of our students, our teaching staff, your family and the wider community.

As I am sure you have seen in the press and on social media, there has been an increase in the number of positive Covid results for the Delta variant in the north of England, as well as increases in Essex and Southend over the past few weeks. Whilst overall infection rates remain low across the Borough currently, since the May/June half term there has been a rise in the number of infections within our schools and it does seem to be the younger generations who are becoming infected with this variant.

So, I want to urge you to continue testing and encourage your teenagers and young people to do the same. Please make sure your children:

- Test twice weekly
- Ideally test the night before a school day
- Wait the full 30 minutes before checking the result
- Record the result on the NHS website
- If a test is positive follow-up with a PCR test, for confirmation and to help scientists identify which variant.

If you are worried about carrying out a self-test, there is assisted testing in eight pharmacies across the Borough where you can be helped to do your test.

If your test is positive and your household needs to isolate, there is still funding support in place for those who qualify.

You can find out more about Covid and what advice and support services are in place by visiting the [Council's website](#). There is also a link to the Government webpage where you can order home tests to be delivered directly to your door. You can also get test kits from the following libraries:

- Southend Central Library at The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1NS
- Westcliff Library, 649 London Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 9PD
- Kent Elms Library, Rayleigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea Essex, SS9 5UU
- Southchurch Library, 221 Lifstan Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2XG
- Leigh Library, Broadway West, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 2DA
- Shoeburyness Library, Delaware Road, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS3 9NS
- Or from Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garon Park, Eastern Avenue, SS2 4FA

We only have five weeks until the end of the academic year. If we can just keep this going, it will help keep everyone safe until the summer holidays, when I will no doubt be encouraging you to continue testing. Thanks again for all you are continuing to do.

Yours faithfully

Krishna

Krishna Ramkhelawon
 Director of Public Health
 Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

