



Derby City Council

Team      Public Health  
Contact    Robyn Dewis  
Our ref     RD/NO

Date        4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents,

We are moving into a new phase in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the number of people infected in our community remains high and some people are still at risk of serious illness from infection. The pandemic is not yet over.

For the month of March testing is still available and guidance remains to stay at home and take a test if you or your family member have symptoms. Our PCR testing sites remain open, and tests can still be ordered online. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 they should stay at home for at least 5 days and can continue to use lateral flow tests on day 5 and 6 to check if they are able to return to school. The only change is that this is no longer a law, it is now guidance.

Lateral flow (rapid) tests are still available for free during March, from April this will end for most of us; currently you can still pick them up from local pharmacies and order them online. Guidance has changed, we are no longer advised to test twice a week, but we are still advised to use these tests to reduce risks to others; for example before seeing elderly relatives or those in poor health.

Please remember the simple things that we can all do to reduce spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

- Keep up to date with vaccinations when offered
- Open windows or meet outside
- Wear a face covering, if you can, if you are in crowded indoor areas
- Wash your hands regularly and cover your coughs and sneezes
- Avoid vulnerable people if you are unwell

We will contact you again when the national guidance is updated for April onwards. Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure we can live safely with COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health

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