



9th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As your child returns to school I am writing to you regarding testing for suspected covid-19 cases within school. This time of year sees lots of children affected with the common cold and other childhood illnesses. Due to the covid situation school have a set of strict guidelines from the Government and local authority that must be followed if covid symptoms are displayed, however mild. If your child becomes unwell in the school setting with symptoms the school will follow these guidelines and the advice given to parents will be to book your child a covid-19 test by visiting: **www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus** or call 119. The same will apply if your child becomes unwell at home with possible covid symptoms.

We appreciate the difficulties parents are having accessing tests. Please be assured that locally there is a lot of work going on to ensure testing is more readily available. Please be patient if you are unable to access a testing slot first time. The NHS release slots throughout the day so please keep checking the NHS 111 site for test slots on a regular basis.

If you are still unable to book a test, in the short term due to demand, we have opened up capacity to carry out covid-19 swabbing via Flatt Walks Red Centre. Please contact your branch surgery to arrange. **DO NOT** go directly to the Red Centre until an appointment is booked and you are advised by staff. You will only be put through to speak to a GP if your child is extremely unwell and you require further assessment.

Please be reassured that if your child is ill and needs medical attention we are still available to speak to parents and will arrange a face to face appointment where necessary. Do not hesitate to contact us if you are concerned about your child's health.

It is vitally important that if your child has any of the symptoms of covid19 that you access testing as soon as possible. This will help reduce the spread of the virus within schools and the community.

We fully support both parents and the school in helping to keep children fit and well. If you do have any medical concerns please do not hesitate to contact us, but with regards to covid-19 and testing please follow the guidelines above.

Yours sincerely

Dr M van Bussel

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