

11 December 2020

Dear Parent

COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

You will be aware of the increasing rate of COVID-19 across much of Essex, particularly in young people and young adults. In order to help stop the spread, the government has made additional testing capacity available for all children/young people and their families to enable you to get a test even if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19. This is particularly important now as Christmas approaches and families look forward to mixing and meeting.

I would therefore urge you to have your child and family tested for COVID-19. To help cope with increased demand, we are increasing the number of drive through testing centres in Thurrock.

You can book a test by visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. The locations for testing are provided on the website. Please select one of the Thurrock locations. The website also allows you to order tests by post if you cannot drive to one of the drive through testing centres. Please select "Yes" to the question "Is the person who needs a test part of a trial of government pilot project" and select "The Person is Taking Part in Community Testing" on the website.

Please do not get a test if you have had a COVID-19 positive test result in the last 12 weeks as it may give an incorrect positive result. If you have been asked to self-isolate for 14 days by the NHS Test and Trace Programme or Thurrock Council's Public Health Team because you have been in contact with someone else who has tested positive for COVID-19, you can still get tested but you should complete your period of self-isolation even if you test negative. This is because the test may not detect COVID-19 in some people who are incubating the virus.

Thank you for your support in helping us to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Thurrock during these difficult times.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Ian Wake
Director of Public Health