

6 July 2021

Dear parents/carers,

**Wider symptoms testing - If in doubt, take a test**

Schools in Manchester have been working together with the Public Health and City Council Education team over the last year to manage the COVID pandemic response.

Schools are following the government guidance with some additional measures brought in locally to help us manage COVID cases.

This has been a tough year for everyone, and I would like to personally thank all our schools and thank you and your children for everything you have done to keep each other safe, particularly our most vulnerable residents.

We need to continue to do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus and get the infection rate down.

Some people may not think they have COVID because they do not have the classic symptoms and could be spreading the infection to others.

Schools and parents are telling us that there are some pupils and staff testing positive with other symptoms, so we are now asking people to take a PCR test for these wider symptoms too.

Testing has a key role to play in helping us keep the virus under control until we have more people in Manchester immunised. The more cases we find, the better chance we have at stopping it spreading.

Please find attached more information on the other symptoms we are asking people to get tested for and some information on the type of test needed and self-isolation.

I would also encourage everyone who is eligible to take up the COVID vaccination offer. We now have a wide range of walk in and pop up clinics across the city and the details can be found in the COVID section of the City Council website ([www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)).

I thank you for your cooperation and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for working with us.

Yours sincerely,



David Regan  
**Director of Public Health for Manchester**