



North Tyneside Council

Wendy Burke
Director of Public Health
North Tyneside Council
Quadrant
The Silverlink North
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside
NE27 0BY

10 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: On-site testing COVID-19 on return to education settings in January.

Following announcements from Department for Education on 26 November secondary schools have been asked to carry out one on-site COVID-19 test on pupils (year 7 onwards) when they return after the Christmas holidays in January.

The aim of the testing is to reduce COVID-19 transmission after a period of social mixing during the school holidays. Identifying pupils who do not have symptoms quickly means that those who test positive can self-isolate straightaway and reduces the likelihood that other pupils will have to isolate and miss out on education.

Following the on-site test, pupils are asked to continue with twice-weekly testing at home. Individual schools will be giving more details about their testing approach and we hope that parents will support this approach and allow their children to take part in the on-site testing. This is particularly important with the increase in cases of the new Omicron variant.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage uptake of 12-15 COVID-19 vaccination, this remains our best defence against the virus.

Finally, we'd like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support in following the COVID guidance, which has allowed many more of our children to enjoy the benefits of face-to-face education this term.

With very best wishes for the festive period.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Burke
Director of Public Health

Diane Buckle
Assistant Director of Education