

Getting tested for COVID-19

17th September 2020

It is important that if you're child becomes unwell with any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below that you get tested.

Testing sites are available across Cheshire and Merseyside, with appointments for tests released daily throughout the day. However, a vast increase in demand has led to laboratories, which process the tests, being overwhelmed. This national issue has meant that bookings have been restricted by the Department of Health and Social Care.

At this time of such high demand it is crucial that only people who have **COVID-19 symptoms** book a test. These include:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

There is no need for members of a pupil's household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

If your child tests positive they should self-isolate and stay off school for 10 days. If the test comes back negative they can return to school if they no longer have symptoms and have been fever free for 48hrs.

As we head into the winter months pupils may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils **don't** need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Please do not attend A and E, other hospital facilities or GP Practices requesting a COVID test as they are not able to provide these

To book a test please visit: www.nhs.uk or by call: 119.