



14 June 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Re: PCR test required - variant of concern

I am writing to you because you were instructed to isolate after being a contact of a confirmed case in June 2021. I want to let you know, this case has been linked with a 'variant of concern' and there is evidence that it spreads more easily than the most common strain in the UK. However, there is currently no evidence that it causes more severe illness, increased risk of mortality or makes the current vaccines any less effective.

As Director of Public Health, I strongly recommend, all those that were asked to isolate because of this case should have a PCR test immediately to help protect each other and prevent any further spread of the virus. To book a PCR test, call 119 **for free** or book online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

It is important that everyone is aware that although Liverpool is opening up, we still need to be very cautious about the risk of Covid-19, especially in light of the new variant. We all still need to keep our distance, wash hands regularly and thoroughly, keep buildings well ventilated, wear face coverings at school drop off and pick up and meet people outdoors when possible. Please ensure you get your Covid vaccine when offered.

Remember, if you develop symptoms of COVID (fever, cough, loss or change in sense of taste or smell), you must isolate immediately and book a PCR test online. Anyone with no Covid- 19 symptoms can get tested twice a week. You can opt to:

- have a supervised test at a test centre - <https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/symptom-free-testing/>
- pick up home test kits at a test centre or at a local pharmacy, or
- order online at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Finally, if you need support to isolate or enable your child to isolate, and have no other support you can contact Liverpool's Covid Isolation advice line: 0800 169 3032, where they may be able to help. Our lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

With best wishes,

Matt Ashton
Director of Public Health