

Stay safe this Christmas break

The chances of catching and spreading Covid-19 remains high, particularly with the new Omicron variant circulating. Please remain cautious when mixing with friends and family this Christmas break – especially when crowded together indoors:



Wear a face covering in public indoor places, where it is mandatory



Take a lateral flow test before meeting others



Try to meet outside where Covid-19 particles can blow away



If you are meeting inside, let fresh air in by opening windows and doors



Wash your hands regularly



Book a PCR test if you're feeling unwell and have symptoms



Stay home if you are feeling unwell to help protect others



Self-isolate if you test positive for Covid-19, or if you're a close contact and aren't double jabbed



Take a lateral flow test for 7 days if you're a close contact of a positive case (see more on page 2)

We are working closely with schools to ensure children and young people get the best education offer possible as we enter the new year.

For information on staying safe, self-isolation, vaccinations, where to get rapid tests in the borough, and more, visit our Covid-19 webpages:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/covid-19

Rapid testing for close contacts of positive cases

Given the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, schools will appreciate the support of the community in engaging with daily lateral flow testing (for 7 days) if you are a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case, particularly over Christmas.

Who is eligible to test daily?

You are strongly advised to do daily testing for 7 days if you have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19 and you are either:

1. Fully vaccinated (14 days from second dose) adult close contacts
2. Have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
3. Are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
4. Are below the age of 18 years 6 months (but 5 and over).

Children under the age of 5 do not need to do daily testing if they are identified as a contact but they should limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with Covid-19.

If you test positive on a lateral flow test you should self-isolate and book/order a PCR test to confirm the positive result: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

All contacts whether they test or not (and even if they test negative) should:

- Limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- Work from home if they are able to
- Wear a face covering where it is mandatory, in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people
- Limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with Covid-19

Where to get your rapid tests

We appreciate that demand for lateral flow tests is high right now. You can access test kits:

1. Through using any unused stocks that you may have at home
2. Through secondary school collection if you already obtain test kits from here
3. Through Pharmacy collection
4. Through community testing sites (visit our website to see where our mobile testing units are www.wokingham.gov.uk/community-testing)
5. Through the Gov.uk home order channel (availability changes throughout the day so try again later if you aren't able to get through): www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Please notify your school if your child is a close contact of a positive case during the Christmas break. We appreciate all your support in keeping our communities safe.