

Dear Parents,

You will know after many months of hearing about COVID-19 that the three main symptoms of COVID-19 are a **high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste**. If you experience any of these symptoms you should **self-isolate and get tested**.

However, it has become apparent that this virus can present in all kinds of ways and there is now a **wider set of symptoms** which **some** people have also been testing positive with.

They include:

- Diarrhoea
- A persistent headache
- Fever and chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Many of these symptoms could be caused by other “usual” viruses but at this time Wirral’s Director of Public Health is urging residents, adults or children, to get a COVID-19 test if they are showing any of the wider symptoms of the virus. **You must arrange to get a test at one of Wirral’s symptoms-only testing sites**. You can book a symptoms-only test at a mobile testing centre via [www.wirral.gov.uk/test](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/test)

Wirral’s infection rates have fallen since we went into lockdown in early January, but we all still need to do everything we can to further reduce the numbers and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This will help to ensure people are not spreading the virus without knowing.

The test centres are getting results quickly now and if the test is negative your child can return to school as soon as they are well. Don’t forget that if your child has diarrhoea or has been vomiting, they should not return to school until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

There is no need to be overly anxious if your child does get one of the wider symptoms – it is far more likely to be a normal childhood illness than COVID but we want you to check. Better safe than sorry!

Thank you to everyone for all the care you are taking to protect our school community – the infection numbers are falling and we hope that these extra precautions will help this.