



St Helens Borough Council  
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Contact;  
Tel: 01744 676767  
(8am – 6pm weekdays, 10am –  
2pm Saturday)  
[www.sthelens.gov.uk/customer-care](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/customer-care)

10 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Increase in Covid-19 infections in your local area**

We want to let you know that we have seen a sudden increase in the number of Covid-19 infections in St Helens generally but with a concentration around the Newton-le-Willows/Haydock area.

We have to take immediate action now to take control of these cases before there is a wider impact on communities, which could result in restrictions being put in place. The spread in the area is mainly in the 16-30 age range, but more people across age ranges are now testing positive so it is important that all of us stay safe and continue to practise covid-19 safe behaviour.

We are asking that over the next couple of weeks you take extra caution and do your best to restrict your contact with others. You must still take care to reduce your risks of contracting COVID-19 by following the guidance in place:

- Stay more than 2m from anyone outside your household/social bubble. Don't forget you can meet up with no more than five others from different households and that will extend to anywhere from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds (the virus can survive on hard surfaces for a few days)
- Wear a mask in enclosed settings
- Reduce the number of people you come into contact with – the fewer contacts the less chance to spread any infection.

For more advice, particularly if you need support with food and medicine or if you need to isolate, visit; [www.sthelens.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call St Helens Contact Cares on **01744 676767**.

If you have any of the following symptoms, however mild, you will need to get a test. The symptoms to look out for are:

- **A high temperature**
- **A new, continuous cough**
- **A loss of sense of smell or taste**

To book a test it takes just a few minutes of your time and testing is available at Haydock Park Racecourse or alternatively book a home test. To book go online [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested) or alternatively call NHS 119. There may be capacity issues at certain times so we would encourage people if they are unsuccessful first time to leave it a few hours and try to rebook later in the day. We will update the public should further testing arrangements be made available.

It's important to remember if you have symptoms and test negative, if you show symptoms after the test you must still isolate for 10 days from the first onset of symptoms and 14 days for anyone else in your household.

A negative test does not mean that you can be complacent with your safety and that of others around you.

Thank you for your assistance.



Susan Forster  
Director of Public Health  
St Helens Borough Council



Jo Davies  
Assistant Director,  
Education, Early Help and Children's Health