



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Targeted Covid-19 testing in parts of Oldbury and Tipton**

As you may be aware, Sandwell have announced a programme of additional, targeted Covid-19 testing in response to an identified case on the border of Oldbury and Tipton of the variant first discovered in South Africa.

Although the risk to the wider community is considered low, as a precaution, Sandwell, working in collaboration with PHE and NHS Test and Trace, is taking swift and decisive action to deploy additional surge testing in a specific targeted area. Positive cases will be sequenced for genomic data to help increase understanding of Covid-19 variants and their spread.

The increased targeted PCR swab testing is being introduced in addition to existing extensive local testing. In combination with the current national restrictions, this testing will help us to monitor and suppress the spread of the virus.

People aged 16 and over without symptoms within specific streets in the Oldbury/Tipton border area are strongly encouraged to take a PCR Covid-19 swab test, even if they are not showing any symptoms. There is no need for schools to take any action but pupils in Years 12 and 13 may need to attend the mobile testing unit.

These include specific streets within the wider DY4 7, DY4 8 and B69 2 postcode areas, in an area loosely between Birmingham Canal in the north, New Birmingham Road in the south, Coneygree Road in the west and Vaughan Trading Estate in the east. See map attached.

The mobile testing unit at the PureGym car park in Dudley Port will open from 10am-3pm tomorrow (Wednesday 17 March) for walk-in tests and booked drive-in tests. A booking system for drive-in appointments will be available on the council's website. From Thursday (18 March), the mobile testing unit will be open 9am-3pm seven days a week for walk-in tests and booked drive-in appointments.

People can go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/testsandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/testsandwell) to check if they're in the area where people need to get a test and for details of how to book.

**Please reply to:**

- **Shenstone Lodge** Birmingham Road, Shenstone, Nr Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0LB. **Tel:** 01543 480369 **Fax:** 0800 471 5097
- **The Brades Lodge** Lower City Road, Tividale, West Midlands B69 2HF. **Tel:** 0121 552 3125 **Fax:** 0800 471 5097



**Manor Hall**  
Academy Trust

For anyone who is not online or has questions about the targeted testing in the Oldbury/Tipton border area, they can call the Healthy Sandwell team on 0800 011 4656 for advice.

People with symptoms of Covid-19 should continue to book a PCR test in the usual way, via the Government website at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. They should not attend the testing site at PureGym.

The same national restrictions continue to apply in areas where new variants have been identified and education settings can remain open. Existing testing routines should continue in educational settings and parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can continue to access regular, rapid coronavirus (Covid-19) testing.

Schools/settings in these areas do not need to introduce in any additional measures to those already in operation.

For more information please visit the council website at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/testsandwell](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/testsandwell)

Yours Sincerely



Neil Toplass (Executive Head Teacher)

