

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have today received the following information from Devon County Council regarding testing in our local area:

We are aware that there have been some significant problems with access to COVID-19 testing. You will have seen on the news that this is not unique to Devon but none the less is of significant concern. DCC and PHE have escalated this regionally and nationally but it is unlikely we will see a rapid improvement.

The below are the steps, in order, that should be followed to secure a test:

- **Individuals should only get tested if they have symptoms of coronavirus as described (persistent new cough, high temperature, loss or change to sense of smell or taste)**
- Parents or carers of children attending school or school staff with symptoms of coronavirus should book a test as normal via the [government website](#) or by calling 119.
- If they are unable to book a local testing slot then:
 - a. Individuals should complete the appropriate forms by following the links below:
 - Children under the age of 5: [Urgent Referral Form - Under 5's](#)
 - School aged Children (5-18): [School Aged Children](#)
 - NHS/Health/Care workers: [NHS/Health/Care Professionals](#)
 - All other individuals: [Urgent Referral Form - Adults](#)
 - b. In the event that a test is not bookable, schools should provide one of their 10 home testing kits to the parent or carer of the child

Confirmation of a test booking should include a QR code, so please do not visit a test centre unless you have been sent a QR code, as you may be refused entry.

As children need their parents to conduct the test for them (or help them do it themselves), it is important that when attending a test centre they enter the **self test** lane. Failure to do this, may result in the test not being available.

We are tracking issues with accessing tests, so please feel free to email us (via educate.schoolspriorityalerts-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) if you have a family, who after trying the above, have still not managed to secure a test or have been given contradictory advice.