

The Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share the following information with you.

Firstly, we want to thank you for all you are doing to play your part and help protect your school community – you're all doing an amazing job. As we head towards the end of the academic year, let's work together to reduce the number of cases in our nurseries, schools and colleges and make sure less children will need to learn remotely.

We're now at a crucial time in our fight against coronavirus. In line with yesterday's Government announcement we're asking everyone to not drop your guard just yet – Covid-19 is still here.

There are simple things you can do right now to continue to protect yourself, your family and your school community:

Remember hands, face, space, fresh air – each school may have different rules around face coverings, but everyone aged over 11 should be wearing a face covering when in indoor venues. If you can still meet outside do

Testing – students in year 7 and above are being provided with a free, regular supply of rapid tests and they should continue to take these twice a week. Parents and carers of children in nursery, school or college should also take regular rapid tests along with the rest of the community, by doing this we can all help to reduce the spread of the virus. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

Vaccination – please get your vaccine once you are invited to

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell – be cautious.

If you or your child/ren receive a positive result from a rapid test you must begin self-isolating immediately, not attend school and book a confirmatory PCR test.

If you or your child/ren have symptoms (**new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell or a temperature**) you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you need help to self-isolate contact HertsHelp for advice and practical help with things like getting food and medicine and accessing financial support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

We know none of this is easy, but if we throw our arms around schools to protect them now, we can all look forward to the summer holidays we're hoping for. Thank you again for helping to keep yourselves and your community safe.

Hertfordshire County Council