



To Headteachers of schools/PRUs with secondary aged pupils

**Children, Young People and Education Directorate**

Sessions House  
County Hall  
MAIDSTONE  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 414989  
Ask for: David Adams  
Email: david.adams@kent.gov.uk

Date: 11 December 2020

Dear Colleague

**Testing of asymptomatic pupils and their families**

You will have seen the news items last night/today regarding the intention to undertake mass testing of asymptomatic secondary aged pupils in parts of Kent. Events have moved quickly today with many versions of the truth emerging and fading.

The final outcome is that this weekend the regional and local testing centres are being opened up to allow asymptomatic secondary school aged children, their families and school staff to book tests on-line through the national portal. Mobile testing units are being set up in Dover, Sittingbourne and Sheppey to add capacity.

The Regional Schools Commissioner has written to schools in Swale, Thanet and Dover (Thanet which has a local test centre), asking schools to encourage pupils, their families and staff to get tested. For your information a [copy of the RSC's letter can be found here](#), and [a template letter from the NHS to parents and carers can be found here](#).

Because this initiative is to test asymptomatic individuals, when booking a test they will need to:

- When asked “does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? – click no
- When asked “is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? - click yes
- When asked “tell us which pilot or trial it is” – click “the person is taking part in community testing”

It is recognised that infection rates, particularly amongst the 11-18 year-old cohort, are rising rapidly in many districts. It is not yet clear how or when mass testing will be extended to other parts of Kent. We expect to know more about this early next week. We will update you as we get information.

Yours sincerely

**David Adams**  
Interim Director Education

## Children, Young People and Education