

Ernest Bevin College and Sixth Form Centre



A Specialist Sports, Mathematics & Computing College

Beechcroft Road, Tooting, London, SW17 7DF

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Principal: Tracy Dohel

13 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Surge Testing in Lambeth and Wandsworth- COVID-19 'South African' Variant

You may be aware that the government announced last night that additional surge testing is being deployed across Lambeth and Wandsworth. This is due to a cluster of the COVID-19 variant, first identified in South Africa, being found in these areas. The Government's statement can be found [here](#). Clearly this includes all members of our College community.

Everyone over the age of 11 who lives, works in, or travels through Lambeth or Wandsworth is asked to get a PCR test. Please find details on how to do this at the end of this letter.

We do not expect this to change arrangements for the start of term at the beginning of next week. We will update you as soon as possible should this change.

There are at present no other changes to current expectations in regards to the virus and young people over 11 years old should continue with twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing. Should a member of your household develop any symptoms, a PCR test should be booked in the normal fashion rather than through one of the drop-in centres above.

Please support our efforts to keep the College safe, and fully open.

Yours faithfully

Ms T Dohel
Principal

Wandsworth

What are people being advised to do?

- Every person living or working in Wandsworth is strongly encouraged to take a PCR COVID-19 test this week, even if they are not showing symptoms.
- If people are getting regular rapid tests (i.e. lateral flow tests), for work or other commitments they should prioritise getting a PCR test this week. PCR tests are able to detect new variants of the virus.

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- Facilities offering on-site PCR testing will be deployed at Wandsworth Town Hall, Tooting Leisure Centre and the University of Roehampton. Further testing sites will be opened during the week.
- People are advised to continue following the [national guidance on current restrictions](#) and adhere to social distancing using the hands-face-space rules, if they are leaving home.

How can people get a test?

People without symptoms can:

- Get an on-site PCR test at Wandsworth Town Hall, Tooting Leisure Centre and the University of Roehampton.
- Book an appointment at wandsworth.gov.uk/surge-testing (for themselves and/or another person)
- People who are unable to book online, and don't know someone who can book for them, can call 020 8871 6555 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for help.

People with symptoms can:

- Get tested at one of several symptomatic local test sites across Wandsworth. They must book an appointment at gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.
- You should not visit Wandsworth Town Hall, Tooting Leisure Centre and the University of Roehampton if you are displaying COVID-19 symptoms

If you need further information, please visit wandsworth.gov.uk/surge-testing or don't hesitate to contact me or public health colleagues if you have any questions or queries.

Lambeth

The arrangements in Lambeth are similar, here is a link to their site:

<https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/enhanced-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-lambeth>