

30 April 2021

Dear Parent and Carer,

Surge testing in Wandsworth has now been completed and the council would like to thank everyone who came forward to be tested.

Wandsworth Council worked in partnership with PHE and NHS Test and Trace to deliver Enhanced Testing in a response to a cluster of cases found in the borough of the variant first identified in South Africa.

In total, around 70,000 tests were registered since 12 April. This number is likely to rise when more returned testing kits are included, including those distributed through schools. Completed PCR test kits can continue to be dropped off at one of 23 pharmacies across the borough until 8 May.

These figures are preliminary, when we have full results from the surge testing and have sequencing results for all positive samples successfully analysed we will update you.

Every positive case identified through testing is another person who can be isolated, and another set of contacts traced. Every positive case we find can help us break chains of transmission and suppress the virus in our community.

All suitable positive COVID-19 samples from our testing in Wandsworth will continue to be sent for genomic sequencing. This will help us to understand the spread of any variants locally. The council will share the full results from this surge in testing when we have received sequencing results for all positive samples during the surge testing period.

If any variant of concern cases are identified, the Health Protection Team in their area will be immediately notified so they can deliver an enhanced public health response.

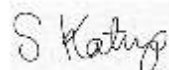
Everyone should continue to get regular rapid symptom-free tests. Routine rapid testing is available to everyone through home testing, workplace testing, community testing, collection from test sites during specific collection windows, testing on-site at schools and colleges and collection from participating pharmacies. For more information about local testing please see the council website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk Lateral flow testing in Wandsworth.

If you have coronavirus symptoms, you should book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus, via the NHS COVID-19 app or call 119.

You must continue to follow the national guidance and remember, hands, face, space and fresh air. Getting vaccinated when it is your turn will give you the best protection against COVID-19.

The response to our call for all Wandsworth residents was phenomenal and I'm grateful to each and every one of you. This is one of the ways to keep the virus at bay and help life return to something approaching normality.

Yours sincerely



Shannon Katiyo
Director of Public Health
Wandsworth Council