

Colin Cox • Director of Public Health • Cumbria County Council
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13 November 2020

Dear Parents

Precautionary COVID-19 testing now advised for all pupils at Richard Rose Central Academy (who are not currently self-isolating)

I am writing to you in relation to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Over the past month, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the Carlisle area have risen significantly. This has led to a number of positive cases being seen in schools in the area.

Cumbria County Council's Public Health team has been working with Richard Rose Central Academy to provide advice and support in relation to the positive COVID-19 cases at the setting. Everyone at the school is working very hard to keep pupils and staff safe, whilst continuing to support learning.

The school is following all the public health advice, but we are continuing to see both staff and students test positive for COVID-19. This may be due to individuals not showing symptoms, but carrying the virus.

Therefore as a precaution, I am now recommending that all staff and pupils at Richard Rose Central Academy who are not currently isolating at home get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

How do I arrange testing for my child?

As an adult will need to be present whilst a child gets tested, I recommend you get your child tested at one of the testing sites in and around the Carlisle area. Testing at one of these sites can be arranged via the national portal: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 (but only if you do not have internet access).

When prompted ensure you tick the following box:

- Why are you asking for a test? - tick the option that says 'My local council has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'

Further information about the testing sites in Carlisle and the testing process are attached to this letter.

If your child is already self isolating because they are a positive case, or because they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, they do not need to get tested.

There is no need for anyone else in your household, or anyone your child has been in contact with to get tested (unless they have symptoms).

Please let the school know the outcome of the test by emailing: covid@rrca.org.uk

If the test result comes back **negative** (and you have NOT been told to self-isolate), you do not need to do anything else and your child can continue to attend school (unless the school contacts you with different advice).

If your child's test result comes back **positive**, they will need to start a 10 day isolation period from the date of their test and other household members will have to isolate for 14 days from the date of the test. Follow the Government Guidance: [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

I understand that this can be an anxious time, but I can confirm that the schools is following all the correct public health advice and that everyone is working very hard to manage the situation.

Now we are seeing more cases in school settings, it is important that we all continue to follow the advice to protect ourselves and others against COVID-19:

- Wherever possible, maintain 2 metres distance from people outside your household
- Wash your hands regularly
- Use face coverings where appropriate
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, new continuous cough or change to/loss of sense of taste or smell), isolate at home and get tested
- If you are told you are a close contact of a positive case, stay at home and follow the advice given to you

Thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Cox', written in a cursive style.

Colin Cox
Director of Public Health
Cumbria County Council

Where are the testing sites in Carlisle?

1) Walk-through testing facility at Castle Car Park, Devonshire Walk, Carlisle

The walk-through coronavirus testing facility at the Castle Car Park, Devonshire Walk, in Carlisle is open 8am to 8pm every day.

- Use the Postcode CA3 8UL
- Signage along Devonshire Road will highlight the most appropriate turn off for the large car park, which is next to the castle entrance turn off.

2) Drive-through testing facility at Carlisle Lake District Airport

Address: Carlisle Lake District Airport, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4NZ

3) Other testing sites in Cumbria

Information about other testing sites in Cumbria can be found on the test booking website when you register for a test.

Important information about testing

- To book an appointment or for more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> (remember to tick the box saying 'a local authority has asked me to get a test').
- Those tested will receive their results by text (to the given mobile number) within a couple of days.
- Testing is available for everyone, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.
- Tests must be booked in advance.
- You should follow public health measures including social distancing and wearing a face covering (including travelling to and from the testing centre).
- When you book your appointment you will be given information on travelling to and from the test site safely.
- You will be provided with a test kit when you enter the tent and directed to a testing bay to carry out the test (parents/carers can carry out the test on children).
- Members of testing staff are available to answer questions and can talk people step by step through the testing process.