



17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this letter with you:

As we head into the festive season, we'd like to say thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and helping to keep yourselves and others safe.

We are all looking forward to spending time with friends and family this year, there are simple steps you can take to help make this festive period as safe as possible and reduce the risk of you and your family catching and spreading COVID-19:

- **Get vaccinated** - Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. You can also now get your booster three months after your second dose, to book this and any COVID-19 vaccinations, visit: www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination
Young people aged 12-17 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) can find out more and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>
- **Test regularly** – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest
From 14 December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.
- **Stay at home** – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested
If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Finally, please don't send children back to school in January if they have symptoms. Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools and colleges are working so hard to keep our communities safe and reduce disruption to children's learning and development so let's all work together to help them and each other.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season.

Yours sincerely

Hertfordshire County Council.

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