

COVID-19 South African Variant: Key messages for Staff and parents

- We are responding to detection of the new South African variant of COVID-19 locally in some W7 and W13 postcodes, where there was no clear link to recent travel to South Africa
- The government and NHS Test and Trace has asked authorities impacted areas to test 10,000 people (16+). This is being done to enable closer monitoring work to establish if there are any more cases in the area.
- If a person tests positive, has any symptoms, or are contact traced following contact with someone who tests positive, they should self-isolate immediately. This action will help to suppress the spread of the virus.
- There is currently no evidence that this variant causes more severe illness, or that the regulated vaccine would not protect against it.
- There is one person locally who tested positive at the end of December. They self-isolated for 10 days and have fully recovered. There is no current evidence of any additional local risk or onward transmission.
- We want to test as many people as possible with PCR tests in parts of W7 and W13 in the next two weeks to help us detect any spread. We want to test all adults in the locality including people without symptoms as well as those with symptoms.
- NHS Test and Trace has sent a mobile testing unit to Dean Gardens, W13 and people living in the identified area will be offered home testing kits. This testing is for people who do not have symptoms.
- If you have coronavirus symptoms, please book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119
- People should continue to follow the lockdown rules and remember 'hands, face, space'.
- **People can still leave home for essential reasons if they live in this area, including for work if they are unable to work from home, to exercise and to shop.**
- **Key and critical workers should carry on as normal.**
- Like all parts of the country, people are being asked to follow the public health rules, to stay at home as much as possible, this is very important given the high rates of COVID-19 in the borough.
- People should continue to take up the COVID vaccine when they are offered their appointment
- People who are concerned can call Ealing Together telephone line on 0208 8825 7170
- The more cases of the variant we find, the better chance we have at suppressing it. Please help to keep your community safe by getting tested so we can find the variant and protect you and your loved ones.



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