



St Helens Borough Council
Town Hall
Victoria Square
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1HP

Contact;
Tel: 01744 676767
(8am – 6pm weekdays, 10am –
2pm Saturday)
www.sthelens.gov.uk/customer-care

10 September 2020

Dear Resident

Increase in Covid-19 infections in your local area

We want to let you know that we have seen a rise in the number of Covid-19 infections in and around the Newton-le-Willows area.

We want to take action now to take control of these cases before it has a wider impact on the community, which could result in restrictions being put in place. The spread in the area is mainly in the 16-30 age range, but more people across age ranges are now testing positive so it is important that all of us stay safe and continue to practice covid-19 safe behaviour.

We are asking that over the next couple of weeks you take extra caution and do your best to restrict your contact with others. You must still take care to reduce your risks of contracting COVID-19 by following the guidance in place:

- Stay more than 2m from anyone outside your household/social bubble. Don't forget you can meet up with no more than five others from different households and that will extend to anywhere from Monday 14th September
- Regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds (the virus can survive on hard surfaces for a few days)
- Wear a mask in enclosed settings
- Reduce the number of people you come into contact with – the fewer contacts the less chance to spread any infection.

For more advice, particularly if you need support with food and medicine or if you need to isolate, visit; www.sthelens.gov.uk/coronavirus or call St Helens Contact Cares on **01744 676767**.

If you have any of the following symptoms, however mild, you will need to get a test. The symptoms to look out for are:

- **A high temperature**
- **A new, continuous cough**
- **A loss of sense of smell or taste**

To book a test it takes just a few minutes of your time and testing is available at Haydock Park Racecourse or alternatively book a home test. To book go online www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested or alternatively call NHS 119. There may be capacity issues at certain times so we would encourage people if they are unsuccessful first time to leave it a few hours and try to rebook later in the day.

It's important to remember if you have symptoms and test negative, if you show symptoms after the test you must still isolate for 10 days from the first onset of symptoms and 14 days for anyone else in your household.

A negative test does not mean that you can be complacent with your safety and that of others around you.

If you were on the shielding list previously, we would urge you to take extra caution for the next couple of weeks in social distancing, hand hygiene, wearing masks in enclosed spaces and minimising contact with others from outside your household or workplace where possible. For more information see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/advice-for-people-at-high-risk/>

Thank you for your assistance.

Susan Forster
Director of Public Health