

East Berkshire Director of Public Health,
Time Square,
Market Street,
Bracknell
18th June, 2021

Dear Parent,

Covid-19 Variants of Concern (VoCs)

National Testing Kit Shortage: Effect on Slough Surge Testing

In our letter dated 11th June we outlined the plans for surge testing in all primary and secondary schools in Slough in the 3 weeks from 16th June to 7th July.

Unfortunately, we have heard today that there is a national shortage of PCR testing kits for asymptomatic surge testing (not for symptomatic testing) and so local plans may be subject to some adjustment and scaling back. In Slough there will regrettably be some delay in starting surge testing in several schools. There may also be a possibility that we may not be able to reach all schools by the end of the surge testing period.

We remain in very close communication with all schools and are adjusting our prioritisation for the order in which schools will get surge testing. Unfortunately, this is likely to mean short notice for when your child's school will receive surge testing and when (for secondary school pupils) they will bring home a test to do.

Your patience is very much appreciated during this time. In the meantime please continue to follow national guidance should you or your child experience coronavirus symptoms.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Lines

Director Public Health East Berkshire