![Derbyshire County Council logo]

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health
Adult Social Care and Health Directorate
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Letter sent by email to:

Derbyshire GPs

Telephone	01629 538964
Ask for	
Email	director.publichealth@derbyshire.gov.uk
Our ref	DW/DH
Your ref	
Date	25th February 2021

Dear colleague,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'd like to update you about the new community testing centres we've opened in Derbyshire.

With venues opening in Erewash and Derbyshire Dales this week we now have community testing centres in every district and borough across Derbyshire.

Although cases are falling, it's still vitally important that we continue to do everything we can to stop the spread so that we can all get back to doing the things we love.

As you know 1 in 3 people with the virus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising so getting a test is an important tool to keep cases down.

I'd really appreciate your help in encouraging your patients to get tested regularly, particularly if they are unable to work from home and are mixing with colleagues or the public.

Across Derbyshire community testing is now available at:

Erewash

- West Park Leisure Centre, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton (Opens Wednesday 24 February at noon after which testing will be available 9am to 7pm, seven days a week apart from March 4, 22 and 30)

Derbyshire Dales

- Members Room, County Hall, Matlock (Opens Friday 26 February, 9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

Chesterfield

- Queen's Park Sports Centre, Boythorpe Road, Chesterfield (9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

North East Derbyshire

- Clay Cross Social Centre, Market Street, Clay Cross (9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

High Peak

- Pavillion Gardens, Buxton (9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

Amber Valley

- William Gregg VC Leisure Centre, Hands Road, Heanor (9am to 7pm weekdays, 9am to 4pm weekends. Closes 24 February with new centre at the Wilmot Street Centre opening from 9am Thursday 25 February, 9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

Bolsover District
- Shirebrook Village Hall, Park Road, Shirebrook and Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton (9am to 7pm weekdays, 9am to 4pm weekends) These close at 4pm on Sunday 28 February with the new centre opening at Hillstown Village Hall, Nesbit Street, Hills Town, S446LW at 9am on Monday 1 March. It will be open from 9am to 7pm, seven days a week.

South Derbyshire
- Midway Community Centre, Chestnut Ave, Swadlincote (9am to 7pm, seven days a week)

People don't need to book an appointment and they can find more details about community testing and check waiting times at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/communitytesting We'd ask people with symptoms not to visit our community testing centres but to ring NHS 119 or book a test online in the normal way at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Community asymptomatic testing along with robust contact tracing has an important role to play in driving infection rates down, but it only works as part of a whole suite of measures including following the guidance around socialising and self-isolation and the roll-out of the vaccine.

I'd like to extend my thanks once more for your support in helping to share those prevention messages.

Although the government has announced its roadmap out of 'lockdown' we know that this relies on people continuing to get tested, staying at home where possible, sticking to social distancing rules, wearing masks and washing their hands.

But where people do have to continue to go out to work and for other essential reasons to mix with colleagues and the public, community testing can make these activities safer so we need to continue to get that message out to people.

I have attached an example text message which you may wish to use at the bottom of this letter and there are some suggested social media posts and images attached to this email for you to use on your own social media channels.

If you do have any questions please don't hesitate to email director.publichealth@derbyshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health for Derbyshire

Example text messages:
Did you know 1 in 3 people infected with coronavirus have no symptoms? Find out if you're one of them and help stop the spread. Get a free test at a Derbyshire County Council community testing centre. No need to book – just turn up. For more information visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/communitytesting Please don't visit if you have symptoms. Stay at home and book an NHS test online www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

1 in 3 people infected with coronavirus don't have symptoms and could be spreading it unknowingly. Find out if you're one of them to stop the spread. Get a free test at a Derbyshire County Council community testing centre now available in each district and borough. No need to book – just turn up. For more information visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/communitytesting Got Symptoms? Please stay at home and book a test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.