



Update 05.06.2021: Council Supports Public Health Agency Call for Residents to Come Forward for COVID-19 Testing in Parts of Kilkeel

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is supporting the Public Health Agency (PHA) call for asymptomatic people to get COVID-19 tested in selected, targeted neighbourhoods within the Kilkeel area as a precautionary measure.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has identified a small number of probable cases of the Delta variant (VOC-21APR-02, first detected in India) in the Kilkeel area. These early results are suggestive of the variant, but this has not been confirmed.

The call for testing in select neighbourhoods in Kilkeel is in advance of confirmation of whether a variant is present so that the PHA can identify asymptomatic COVID-19 cases early and reduce the risk of spread in the community.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason said, "Testing is open to everyone in these areas over the age of five years old, and households in the areas of Kilkeel that this testing covers will be contacted directly by the PHA in the coming days.

"We encourage those contacted to take part in the testing to help reduce any potential spread in the community. This is a precautionary measure and the Council is fully supporting the PHA in its efforts.

"Please also remember to keep following the COVID-19 public health guidance to help keep you and those around you safe. Continue with good hand hygiene, keep socially distancing, wear a face covering where necessary and keep rooms well ventilated. Don't forget too to make your vaccine appointment when offered a slot."