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Contact: Mike Sandys
Phone: 0116 232 3232

Email: comms@leics.gov.uk

An open letter to the residents of Oadby and Wigston

Dear resident,

We have been battling coronavirus together for many months now. I wanted to write to you personally - as the director of public health - to thank you for your continued efforts, personal sacrifices and determination to stop this virus in its tracks.

I think we can all agree - it's been a long, hard, road. Once COVID takes hold it spreads in a community and unless we can break the chain of transmission, it's relentless.

In the summer, when cases were on the rise, amongst other things we dropped leaflets through your doors and put banners around the towns - you stopped to take notice.

When we opened test centres in your neighbourhoods, you turned up. You self-isolated and you did the right thing. Cases began to fall.

At one point - there were more people getting tested for coronavirus in Oadby and Wigston than anywhere else in the country - and it helped to flush out cases and drive down numbers.

But the gradual easing of restrictions meant that there was room for the virus to spread again - and it did. Numbers in your area have been persistently high. There are other examples across the UK of stubborn infection rates – including Leicester city and Sandwell.

Public Health

Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RB

Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health

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We have been taking local action. Just this month we opened the first rapid test site for Wigston because of high infection rates - and it's proved successful in helping to bring down the numbers.

This week, we've seen those numbers drop by about a third. It's clear that the national lockdown, combined with our local testing approach is helping.

I know it's been hard to stick to the rules. But it's the simple measures: staying at home if you can, washing your hands, covering your face and allowing space, which is really making a difference.

Thank you for sticking with it. For your families, friends and neighbours. Please continue to do the right thing, so that we don't see numbers creep up again. Act like you've got it.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Sandys
Director of Public Health
Leicestershire County Council

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