

Dear First Minister and Minister for Education,

As the ongoing supply and demand of COVID19 tests continues to be a challenge, it is understandable that decisions may be taken to determine how available tests are distributed in the most constructive method until tests are more widely accessible.

Clearly there will be some geographical factors under consideration with available resources being more concentrated in hot spot areas. There has also been some discussion about prioritising tests based on occupation and need. We strongly urge Welsh Government to include the whole school workforce as a priority group for tests.

Keeping schools open and properly staffed is a key priority for the sake of all school age children across Wales and for broader economic factors. The sooner staff who need a test are able to either definitively self-isolate where they have a positive result or return to work if they have a negative result and are well enough to do so, the better for pupils and staff at those affected schools.

Workforce planning in order to provide safe school settings is proving difficult already without the ongoing threat of increasing members of staff unable to attend work because they can't access a COVID19 test.

Prioritising tests for all school staff is now the only way to maintain safe and fully operational schools environments until test supply issues are resolved.

As the unions representing members of the education workforce in Wales, we thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Rosie Lewis

**Regional Organiser
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