

Please reply to: Stuart Lines, Public Health
Director

Email: stuart.lines@enfield.gov.uk

Phone:

My Ref: SL/ds-a/da

Your Ref:

Date: 30th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Supporting schools respond to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you know, most children returned to school in September. I am writing to you to update you about the work that Public Health are doing to limit the spread of coronavirus in your school community.

This letter also updates you on government guidance and asks you follow guidance and help prevent the spread of infection. This will help ensure children can continue going to school.

The following guidance (and link) provides information to parents and carers about what you need to know about school provision during this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Keeping school communities safe

We are working with schools across Enfield to help them prevent the spread of coronavirus. Your school has completed risk assessments for their buildings, staff and some more vulnerable pupils. Schools have made lots of changes such as new timetables, arrangements for breaktimes, grouping of pupils and staff, staggered start and home times to reduce contact between groups of children. The aim of this is to minimise the impact on others (both educationally and regarding wellbeing) when a confirmed case of coronavirus infection occurs.

Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director People
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

 If you need this document in another language or format contact the service using the details above.

We are closely monitoring the numbers of local infections and will continue to do so. We are working with schools to develop their infection control procedures with the aim of limiting cases and the impact on education. We are supporting schools by;

- Helping schools be aware of current government guidance and the current situation in Enfield.
- Helping schools know what action is needed when a confirmed case happens.
- Providing help, advice and guidance for schools in managing cases.

How you can help

You can help by doing the following;

1. Follow guidance on;
 - **Wash your hands**/ use sanitiser regularly
 - **Face covering** - Wear a face covering where required or advised
 - **Social distancing** - Keep at least 2 meters distance from people
 - **Keeping to guidance about social contacts** – currently not meeting with more than 6 individuals either inside or outside
2. **Follow the stay at home guidance** if you think a member of your household has coronavirus infection:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- If you or a member of your household become poorly with any of the following symptoms, you must get a test and self-isolate until you receive the result.
 - a temperature
 - continuous cough
 - change to your sense of smell or taste
- If the test is positive, the person who has tested positive must self-isolate for 10 days and others in the household self-isolate for 14 days (from the day they first became poorly or when the test was taken).

3. Help your child to self-isolate if your child is sent home as part of a bubble

If your child is part of a school bubble where a confirmed case happens, they may be asked to self-isolate:

- Self-isolation means you do **not** leave your home for fourteen days because you have/ might have coronavirus. This is to help stop the virus spreading to other people.
- Your child should not leave the house and **cannot** visit others or attend any activities, even if these are outdoors. They **cannot** go out to exercise, use public transport or taxis.
- Being sent home does not mean that your child has coronavirus and you should not book a test for your child, unless they develop symptoms
- Other members of your household will **not** be expected to self-isolate due to child being sent home in a school bubble.
- If your child develops symptoms while self-isolating at home, your entire household must self-isolate immediately and you should book a test for those with symptoms. You can check the period of self-isolation which applies here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

4. Wear a face covering

Government guidance says that Head Teachers can instruct staff and visitors to wear face coverings in all schools. In secondary schools Head Teachers can instruct pupils to wear face coverings in communal areas. The purpose of this is to prevent the spread of infection as much as possible. Some people are exempt from wearing a face covering, but if you can this will help reduce spread of infection.

Financial hardship and other help

If you are experiencing financial hardship or need support during self-isolation, please go to <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/>

We are all working hard to ensure that pupils experience as little disruption as possible to their education. We know that this is very important for the children as well as their wider family. We hope that this letter has helped you to understand what we are doing as well as how you and your family can also help reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stuart Lines', written over a thin horizontal line.

Stuart Lines
Director of Public Health