

Parents and Carers

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Our Ref. LR/cd

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Dear Parent and Carer

Further COVID Restrictions in Solihull

You will have seen in the news that the government has introduced new local restrictions in Solihull due to the continued increased number of residents testing Covid-19 positive. Further information is available here: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/>

We understand that you may be concerned by this news and that this is a difficult time for everyone so we wanted to set out what this means for you and your child.

These restrictions do not affect education settings. Schools and Colleges and Early Years Providers will remain open for children and young people in Solihull and attendance is expected.

We know that attending school is vital for children and young people as it:

- Helps improve educational attainment
- Supports their wellbeing
- Provides opportunities to be more physically active and interactive with others

The risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (Covid-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. However we understand that you may still feel concerned.

The council, alongside its partners, is continuing to provide advice and support to all schools throughout the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all children, young people, staff, parents and guardians.

Small numbers of covid-positive cases are being identified in schools and appropriate actions are being taken. Identification is effective and Covid preventative measures are working well. This means all our schools are safe places to be, but great care is needed from everyone outside of school to make sure this remains the case.

Every one of us has a contribution to make to ensure our schools remain safe and can remain open for your child. This will also allow some of these new measures to be lifted as soon as possible.

The best way you can do this is to play your part in reducing COVID numbers. It's really important to:

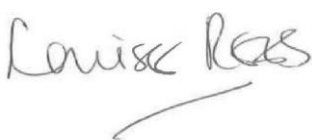
- follow the government's guidance about social distancing - keeping 2m apart – especially when dropping off and picking up children from school. There are still reports of non-distanced gatherings amongst parents at some schools and we must ask again that this doesn't happen. It causes difficulties for staff at school in keeping the environment Covid safe for everyone.
- wear face coverings – **we now recommend that face coverings should be worn as parents drop and collect their children**. Face coverings are now mandatory (unless exempt) on all secondary school buses.
- wash hands regularly.
- self-isolate immediately for 10 days if you or your child or children have symptoms, or 14 days if you have been in contact with someone who has tested Covid-19 positive.
- If your child is sent home to self-isolate then they **MUST** do just that. This period of isolation means ALL day (ie morning, noon and night), and does not just mean staying away from school, it means staying at home.
- If you have COVID symptoms of a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss or change to your sense of taste or smell you can book a test on line.
www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested

Further information to support return to school in the autumn term can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Schools-learning/Coronavirus-Schools>

If you have a specific query or require further information about your child's school Covid Safe measures, please visit the school website or contact the school directly.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Only by working together will we reduce the impact of this pandemic on our loved ones, and only then can we return to socialising with family, friends and colleagues in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Louise Rees
Director of Children's Services and Skills