



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Letter to Parents and Carers

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Chief Executive

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Families and Wellbeing

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23 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The new academic year has seen our communities face challenges we could never have imagined with schools, colleges and our child care settings working together to do everything it takes to remain open for our children and young people whilst keeping everyone safe.

We wrote to you before this latest national lockdown to thank you for your support and for working with schools to help to minimise the risk of contracting the virus. As we enter our third week of lockdown, this support is appreciated and needed more than ever.

The rates across Warrington, although currently decreasing, are still high and it is essential that we continue to work together to ensure they are reduced further. The virus is still present in our communities and it is critical that the requirements of lockdown are strictly adhered to. Please ensure that the following steps continue to be taken:

If you or your child displays COVID-19 symptoms, it is essential that you book a test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and inform the school, college or child care setting so that the procedures can be followed.

These most common symptoms are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually cough, it may be worse than usual)

- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or your child are isolating because you are waiting for the results of a test, please make sure that you inform the school that this is happening and make them aware of the results of the tests as soon as possible so that they can follow procedures.

Schools have continued to put in place precautionary measures to reduce the risks of COVID-19 to ensure that staff and pupils are as safe as they can be:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptom, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Where recommended, using face coverings in schools
- Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensuring that good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Ensure enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach is in place
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

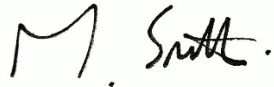
At the time of writing this letter, 93% of our educational settings have managed a positive case in some form. We understand that some of you reading this letter will have children that have needed to isolate as a result, perhaps more than once.

If your child or young person is asked to isolate, it is essential that they follow the instructions given by the school including ensuring that students sent home to isolate do not mix with others outside of the home at any time until the period of isolation ends. Schools and colleges are working hard to support pupils who are isolating with remote education. In settings for year 7 and above, schools are now ensuring that face coverings are worn by both staff, visitors and students when moving around in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. This is in line with guidance.

We are continuing to ask that face coverings must also be worn by parents and staff when dropping off and picking children up from school, this includes the approach to school. We would also ask that parents continue to observe social distancing at these pickup and drop off points and please respect school staff if they need to remind you of the need to wear a mask. Please also remind your children of the need to observe social distancing when leaving school

More information can be found on our website www.warrington.gov.uk, please continue to contact your child's school if you have questions about their specific arrangements,

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Matt Smith
Cabinet Member for Children's Services
& SEND
Warrington Borough Council



Paula Worthington
Director, Education, Early Help
Warrington Borough Council

