

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

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Please ask for: Ruth Tennant

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. You may have seen reports in the media about the lockdown in Leicester and a small number of confirmed COVID-19 cases locally. I wanted to write to you to reassure you on the actions we are taking in supporting schools at this time. The current situation in Solihull is very different to that in Leicester and our rates are much lower and have continued to fall.

We are working in very close partnership with Public Health England in providing support to schools with suspected and confirmed cases. This is enabling schools to take rapid and timely action to ensure that members of the school community are kept as safe as possible. This has included the isolation of bubbles (small groups of pupils) in the very small number of schools where there have been confirmed cases, testing symptomatic staff and pupils and cleaning more regularly in school buildings, including deep cleans when appropriate.

Every school has completed a risk assessment which are being continually reviewed in light of new information and guidance. Schools are being supported in this by a number of Council departments and this will continue into the new school year from September. All schools have received explicit guidance on what to do in the event of a suspected case. Schools are very well equipped to handle any cases quickly and effectively in consultation with public health colleagues.

What we do know is that children and young people who have COVID-19 usually have a mild to moderate illness and that many may show very few signs of being ill. However, we are doing all we can to reduce infection rates in the borough and to act swiftly when they are cases.

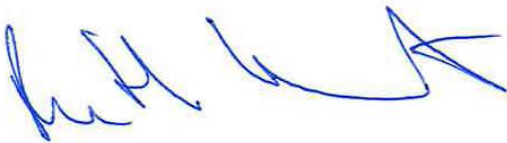
There are a number of things you can do as well:

- Regular handwashing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds
- Stick with the social distancing rules carefully including keeping a 2m distance when you are not at home.
- Only one parent or carer dropping and collecting children to limit the number of adults accessing the schools site.

- Maintaining social distancing both inside and outside the school gates.
- Children/young people should not attend a school/setting if:
  - They have symptoms of COVID-19 (a continuous cough, high temperature and a loss/change in taste/smell)
  - They have been instructed to isolate as a close contact of a confirmed case even if they have no symptoms and feel well.
- If you, your child or someone in your house is unwell and you think it may be COVID-19 go to [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 and follow the instructions
- Remember that people with symptoms of COVID-19 should not go to their doctor but if you do have any other concerns about your or your child's health, you should call your GP for advice as normal.

The guidance for return to school in September has just been released. We are currently working our way through that and will issue more information imminently. We will continue to support schools to manage this as safely and sensitively as we can and would like to thank you for everything you are doing to help with this.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Tennant  
Director of Public Health