

Date: 6th September 2020
Your Ref: COVID 0609
Our Ref:
WP No:



Directorate
People Services
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Bolton
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Dear Colleague

New additional COVID-19 measures for Bolton and implications for schools

Following a meeting taking place Saturday 5th September 2020, Bolton Council in consultation with the government and Public Health England, has taken pro-active action and confirmed additional COVID-19 measures for Bolton, to stop the spread of the virus in the community, and prevent the need for a local lockdown.

These extra precautions are just for Bolton and will help reduce the infection rate which has recently risen to 98.8 per 100,000, making the borough the most at risk area in the UK. The largest group affected are 18-49 year olds who represent more than 90% of the cases.

We are asking all residents of Bolton, with immediate effect:

- to only use public transport for essential purposes, which means travel to education, work, and essential appointments only.
- not to mix with other households in any setting indoors or outdoors anywhere. This does not apply if you are in a support bubble.

Advice from the Department of Education (DfE) is that Bolton schools should remain open to children and young people to ensure their ongoing educational and wellbeing needs are met.

You will be aware that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has recently updated their [Contain framework](#) to include an overview of the tiers of intervention for educational settings when managing local outbreaks and implementing restrictions. We are advised from the DfE that the Bolton position remains in Tier 1. The guidance advises that even in areas of national intervention, where restrictions have been implemented for other sectors education and childcare provision will usually remain fully open to all. Although we

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are currently at Tier 1, we advise that you have plans in place in case we are directed to move to Tier 2. Further guidance is here: [How schools can plan for tier 2 local restrictions](#)

We are using the latest data and intelligence to guide our decision making. Where there are changes in the local COVID-19 transmission and infection rates and further escalation is needed, we will work with national and local partners including school leaders to consider the most appropriate tier to implement. The Health Protection Board will now be meeting twice a week with representation from primary and secondary school heads. This Board will have oversight of the key decision making going forward and will be a natural channel for you to convey your queries going forward.

We understand that this is naturally a worrying time for everyone particularly with schools just starting the Autumn term. Your efforts and support in ensuring that schools are as safe as possible for all is greatly appreciated. We hope these measures will help reverse the rise in figures and avoid the need for more drastic enforcement measures. Please continue to help us share these key messages with your school community.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Helen Lowey

Director of Public Health



Bernie Brown

Director of People Services

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