

Our Ref KD/AB
Your Ref
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Department for Children and
Young People

Parents /Carers of children and young people
in Bury Schools

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR PARENTS ON LOCAL RESTRICTIONS AND WHAT TO DO IF REQUIRED TO SELF- ISOLATE

We are delighted that pupils returned to Bury schools last month and that they have settled well into the routines. All Bury schools completed risk assessments in advance of the new academic year which were quality assured by the Council's Health and Safety Team. The revised policies and procedures introduced by schools continue to be under review to ensure that the school environment complies with the latest government guidance.

You will be aware that the number of people testing positive for coronavirus in Bury is a concern and that we remain an area of intervention for the government. On Friday 25 September, Bury reported 193 positive cases per 100,000 placing us third highest in Greater Manchester and well above the England average of 57. Due to the figures Bury, along with the rest of Greater Manchester and a number of other areas in England, is currently subject to **additional restrictions**.

As we see the number of positive cases in our schools increase we ask that you abide by the latest guidelines. We share a duty of care to each other as our school staff continue to work to educate and care for your child/ren during the school day.

If your school has informed you that there has been a positive case in school and your child is a close contact of the case then your child must **self-isolate** for 14 days. **This means that they must not leave home.** If they develop any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 then you should arrange for them to be tested and inform school of the outcome. If your child is symptom free then they can return to school after the isolation period. Please see attached guide for further information.

If you are informed that you need to self-isolate as a close contact then **you must stay at home.** The government guidance states: Do not go outside even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken within your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis. Government guidance also states that you could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19 or if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate. If your child is not self-isolating they are required to attend school, therefore, if you would normally take them to and from school, alternative arrangements must be made for drop-off and pick-up and school **must** be informed of these arrangements.

In the unfortunate event that your child, or any member of your household, has tested positive for coronavirus then you must follow the guidance with regard to the household self-isolating.

The government introduced the rule of six across England which allowed households to mix in groups of no more than six. However, in Bury we have **additional local restrictions** which mean that you cannot host people you do not live with in your home or garden nor visit other people's homes or gardens. These two rules apply unless you are mixing within your support or childcare bubble. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/greater-manchester-local-restrictions>. Please check the guidance regularly as it is subject to change.

Currently over 2000 Bury pupils are not in school as they have been identified as close contacts for a member of the school community who has tested positive. Schools will continue to support these pupils through the use of remote learning although, usually, within a partial closure situation.

It remains a challenging time for us all. Your support for our schools at this time is very much appreciated as they endeavour to offer the highest quality of education possible within current constraints.

Working together education in our schools will return to normal in time.

Yours sincerely

Karen Dolton.

Karen Dolton
Executive Director, Children and Young People