

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will all be aware, from 23:59 tonight, the government's new lockdown restrictions come into play. In order to help answer some of the questions some families might have, we thought we would share with you a summary of the key information we have at this time.

Although this is challenging times for us all, we really need to do everything we can to protect each other and do the right things for our community. The last thing we want is for schools to have to close again, but we also do not want any of our school community to be unnecessarily poorly, so please help us to prevent this.

Stay at Home

This means you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. These include:

- for childcare or education.
- for work purposes, where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home (including if your job involves working in other people's homes).
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with **one** person from another household (children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside).
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm - such as domestic abuse
- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which should be as infrequent as possible.
- to visit members of your support bubble or provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer.

Staying Safe Outside the Home

You should minimise time spent outside your home and when around other people ensure that you are two metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

Remember - 'Hands ... Face ... Space'!

Meeting with Family and Friends

You must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household - meaning the people you live with - or support bubble.

A support bubble is where a household with one adult joins with another household. Households in that support bubble can still visit each other, stay overnight, and visit outdoor public places together.

You can exercise or visit outdoor public places with the people you live with, your support bubble, or **one** person from another household (children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside).

Outdoor public places include:

- parks, beaches and countryside.
- public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them) and allotments
- playgrounds

You cannot meet in a private garden.

Business and Venues

To reduce social contact, the Government has ordered certain businesses and venues to close. These include:

- all non-essential retail, including, but not limited to clothing and electronics stores, vehicle showrooms, travel agents, betting shops, auction houses, tailors, car washes, tobacco and vape shops.
- indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, leisure centres and gyms, sports facilities including swimming pools, golf courses and driving ranges, dance studios, stables and riding centres, soft play facilities, climbing walls and climbing centres, archery and shooting ranges, water and theme parks.
- entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, adult gaming centres and arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, concert halls, zoos and other animal attractions, botanical gardens.
- personal care facilities such as hair, beauty and nail salons, tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services, non-medical acupuncture, and tanning salons.

Food shops, supermarkets, garden centres and certain other retailers providing essential goods and services can remain open. Essential retail should follow COVID-secure guidelines to protect customers, visitors and workers.

Non-essential retail can remain open for delivery to customers and click-and-collect.

Playgrounds can remain open.

Hospitality venues like restaurants, bars and pubs must close, but can still provide takeaway and delivery services. However, takeaway of alcohol will not be allowed.

Hotels, hostels and other accommodation should only open for those who have to travel for work purposes and for a limited number of other exemptions which will be set out in law.

Some venues will be allowed to remain open for specific exempt activities, like childcare and support groups. Support groups that are essential to deliver in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. This includes support to victims of crime, people in drug and alcohol recovery, new parents and guardians, people with long-term illnesses, people facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement.

A number of public services will also stay open and you will be able to leave home to visit them. These include:

- the NHS and medical services like GPs. We are supporting the NHS to safely carry out urgent and non-urgent services and it is vital anyone who thinks they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help.

- Jobcentre Plus sites.
- Courts.
- Civil Registrations Offices.

Protecting People More at Risk from Coronavirus

If a member of your family is over 60 or clinically vulnerable, they could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. If this is the case they:

- should be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise their contacts with others.
- should continue to wash their hands carefully and more frequently than usual and maintain thorough cleaning of frequently touched areas in their home and/or workspace.

Clinically vulnerable people are those who are:

- aged 70 or over (regardless of medical conditions).
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
 - chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis.
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure.
 - chronic kidney disease.
 - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis.
 - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) or cerebral palsy.

Childcare and Children's Activities

Parents will still be able to access some registered childcare and other childcare activities (including wraparound care) where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, or for the purposes of respite care.

Early years settings can remain open. **Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.** As above, some households will also be able to benefit from being in a support bubble, which allows single adult households to join another household.

Some youth services may be able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

The key thing for us as a school is we will remain open and operating in accordance with our Covid19 risk assessment. The main change to note for families is that each family can only form a childcare bubble with one other household and we will not be able to send children home with more than one different family for the period of these restrictions.

We hope this letter helps to explain some of the restrictions coming into force in time for Thursday. Please stay safe and let us all protect each other as much as we can.

Warm regards,

SCox

Sarah Cox
Headteacher