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**To all staff working in
Nottinghamshire schools**
**Copies to all Head Teachers and
Chairs of Governing Bodies**

05 November 2020

Dear colleagues,

Covid-19 safety measures in Nottinghamshire

We have been asking all staff in Nottinghamshire schools to support efforts to keep our schools as safe as possible in the coronavirus pandemic, for everyone in the school – pupils and staff. We want to say a big thank you to you all for your support for the various measures introduced, and for following the advice and guidance to help keep our schools open throughout the last half term.

As you'll know, coronavirus remains a significant threat to our communities. Nottinghamshire was designated an area of very high alert (Tier 3) from 30 October. Since then, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown starting on Thursday 5 November. You can find information about the national lockdown at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>. These will be the new basic rules:

- You must stay at home, except for specific reasons such as work and education.
- You must not mix with anybody outside your household or support bubble in any indoor setting or in any private garden.
- You can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with and your support bubble, or when on your own, with one other person, with social distancing in place.
- People in the “clinically extremely vulnerable” category (who previously received information about shielding from their medical practitioner) should take extra care and work from home. The government will write directly to affected individuals about this.

Schools will remain open, but in Nottinghamshire, in education settings where year 7 and above are educated, face coverings must currently be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.

Nottinghamshire schools have worked hard with Health and Safety and Public Health experts to put in place safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These include measures such as undertaking and reviewing risk assessments, grouping children, minimising visitors, avoiding use of volunteers, extra cleaning and hygiene measures, reducing equipment sharing and using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when appropriate. There is a clear process for handling confirmed cases of coronavirus in the school cohort – both children and staff – to help keep closures and absences to a minimum. All of these things help to protect both children and staff in school environments.

Evidence to date shows that transmission of coronavirus is mainly between adults and happens most often in household settings. Evidence also shows that most children and young people are not at high risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19. However, people in the “clinically extremely vulnerable” category are at increased risk of serious illness. During the lockdown period, clinically extremely vulnerable adults are advised to work from home and must not go into work. Individuals in this group will have been identified through a letter from the NHS/their GP, and may have been advised to shield in the past. All other staff can still attend work if they cannot work from home, including those living in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable.

School staff have a vital role to play in helping to reduce the risk of infection – here are some ways that individuals can help:

Social distancing

- Remember that social distancing applies at all times, including at break times, lunch times, and in the school office.
- Avoid car sharing with someone from outside your household or support bubble. If it’s unavoidable, follow the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Breaking the chain of infection

- Do not attend work if you have coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste). Stay at home and get a test either online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
- If anyone in your household has symptoms, all other members of the household must also self-isolate until the test result is received. If your test result is positive, you will get further instructions about what to do.
- Let the school know immediately if you have a positive test result.
- If an adult in the household is self-isolating because they have been told to by NHS Test & Trace or the NHS Covid-19 app, or if a child is self-isolating because their bubble has been sent home from school, they must not leave the house, even if they have no symptoms. Other people in the household do not need to self-isolate unless they get symptoms.

Following the public health advice

It is crucial that we all continue to follow the public health advice so we can protect our family, friends and communities. Here’s a summary of the Hands Face Space advice:

HANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wash hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.
FACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear face coverings in enclosed spaces where you can’t keep your distance. This is legally required in many settings, including in very high alert areas, in schools where year 7 and above are educated.
SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings). • do not meet socially with friends and family indoors or in private gardens unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them. • exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your support bubble, or when on your own, with one other person.

Thank you for all of your efforts in helping to keep the virus under control, which contribute to keeping the school environment safe for you, your colleagues, and all the children in your school.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director, Children and Families
Nottinghamshire County Council



Jonathan Gribbin
Director of Public Health
Nottinghamshire County Council