

Date: 09 October 2020
Your Ref:
Our Ref:



Public Health

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www.bolton.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

We want to thank you as parents and carers for your ongoing co-operation and support, to ensure that education and learning continues throughout these difficult times for all of our children and young people in Bolton. Throughout the pandemic response education and childcare settings have taken extraordinary efforts to make sure that environments are covid-safe and have robust systems in place to respond to positive cases of coronavirus within the setting.

As the Directors of Public Health and Children's Services we wanted to jointly share some information with you to make sure that your family understand what self-isolation is to reduce the spread of the virus, and help you avoid any fixed penalty notices.

People who are asked to self-isolate have been identified as a 'direct' or 'close' contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Self-isolation is one of the most important measures to help reduce the spread of the virus. Self-isolating means that the person (or people) identified stay at home. The only people that they will come in to contact with will be other people in their household. A person self-isolating **must not**:

- leave the house
- go to childcare / school / out of school provision
- attend sports clubs (to watch, train or play)
- go shopping
- go with parents to pick siblings up from school
- go out with friends or family members
- visit places of worship or religious observance

Bolton Council has produced some useful information on self-isolation and what this means for families. This can be accessed on the Councils website: <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-1/local-restrictions-can-cannot/1>

Director of Public Health – Dr Helen Lowey



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We understand that children and young people may find staying at home challenging, but we want to work with early education settings, schools and you as parents and carers to help them understand the importance of keeping to the rules.

Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19, or has been identified as a direct or close contact of someone who has, now has a legal duty to self-isolate in line with the government guidelines. Refusal to self-isolate when told to is now illegal in England, and individuals will be issued fines starting at £1000.

Please take some time to read the attached leaflet for parents which will help you understand when your child needs to self-isolate, and when their isolation period ends.

I recognise that this is a really difficult time for us all, but it is really important that we work together to help keep our families, and each other, safe. Support is available for families who are all self-isolating and where there is no one else who is able to help. To access this, families can contact the local authority support helpline by calling 01204 337221. There are also sources of support and information that can help, such as the [Every Mind Matters](https://bit.ly/3lcWekZ) website (<https://bit.ly/3lcWekZ>).

I would like to thank you for working with us, and your child's early education / school / childcare setting during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Dr Helen Lowey
Director of Public Health
Bolton Council



Bernie Brown
Director of Children's Service
Bolton Council

Director of Public Health – Dr Helen Lowey



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