



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Via email

Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive

Town Hall
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3 January 2021

Dear colleagues

Primary School Opening

We hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas break. We are very aware that you are keen to have a position statement from the local authority and the Director of Public Health. At this point in time the DPH supports the Government position which is to keep Primary schools open. This situation will be kept under constant review as updated data emerges, especially on the new variant. We will share data with you as we receive it. Sending it over now sending it over in 2 mins

The following information is intended to give you a brief overview to the changes to guidance which have emerged over the Christmas break – the key of which are to update your risk assessments in respect of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff and pupils and staff who are pregnant.

Implications for the start of the school term

All guidance has been updated to reflect the staggered start of the school term for secondary and college pupils. School leaders should read guidance in light of Tier 4 restrictions and update setting risk assessments accordingly, including consideration of:

- the changes to Extremely Clinically Vulnerable pupils and staff and how this impacts workforce and the remote education offer
- staff who are pregnant
- Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

School leaders should ensure that any changes to practice are communicated to staff and parents as soon as possible to help them prepare for the new term.

Schools should resume completing the daily [educational setting status form](#). Colleges do not need to resume completing the form and will be provided with further instruction when colleges should resume completing this form.

Full guidance can be accessed from the following links:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings](#)

Guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing programme for secondary schools and colleges in Warrington

Following the announcement on 30th December that Warrington will move to Tier 4, and an announcement by the Education Secretary to invoke the [contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#) plans for England we can confirm the following changes to the start of the Spring term for schools and colleges in Warrington:

- Early years settings and child minders will remain open from 4th January
- Primary schools will be fully open to all pupils from 4th January
- Special Schools and Alternative Provision will be open from 4th January, although there may be some staggering of return to allow some special settings to allow some special settings to roll out rapid testing

Secondary and FE colleges:

- Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in secondary schools and colleges will be provided with face-to-face education from 4th January
- Exam years will receive remote education for the first week of term and return to face to face education during the week commencing 11th January
- All students in secondary schools and colleges are expected to return to face to face education on 18th January

This is a rapidly changing situation which requires constant review. We will continue to work with school leaders to ensure the best course of action for pupils in Warrington based on the evidence available and will keep schools informed through the daily briefing and school leaders meetings.

Rapid testing in Warrington schools

Some of our Primary schools have decided to test all of their staff on return using Lateral Flow Tests. If this is something your school wants to do please contact us through the Education services inbox which is education@warrington.gov.uk and we will arrange for tests to be delivered to your school.

We will be working closely with School Leaders in secondary, specialist and FE colleges to launch the rapid testing programme in Spring Term. The vast majority of settings have taken an additional INSET day on 4th January to plan for this and have sent out information to parents in preparation for the programme.

We expect further lateral flow device (LFD) tests to be delivered to settings on W/C 4th January between 8am and 10am and settings should ensure that someone is available to receive them. It is

aimed that weekly testing will be available for all secondary and college staff and daily serial testing will be offered to staff and students in close contact of positive cases as an alternative to self-isolation as soon as possible in the spring term.

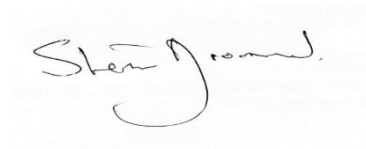
Resources for school leaders are emerging and can be found at [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#) these include:

- NHS digital guide – this guide provides details on how to register testing assistants, staff and pupils on the NHS Test and Trace system
- ‘how to’ guide – this guide will be updated to include information on the test registration process
- ‘how to’ video – this video accompanies the ‘how to’ guide
- Site signage – print friendly signage
- Consent form template – for schools to issue to parents and carers to provide their consent
- Privacy notices, for schools and parents
- Legal agreement and standard operating procedure – a cover note will be provided to summarise these documents

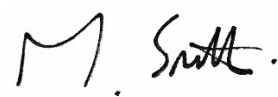
Supplementary documents for specialist provision have been made available [guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings](#). The first School Leaders meeting on January 5th will consider the roll out of the programme and the logistics for implementation.

We will of course be available to support as always and please be assured that we are in this together. The daily briefs will continue to be shared and the Education task force will continue to meet

Yours sincerely



Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive



Councillor Matt Smith
Cabinet Member, Children’s Services



Paula Worthington
Director, Education, Early Help & Send

Thara Raj
Director of Public Health

