

Dear Parents

The Local Authority have received confirmation from the DfE in relation to the social distancing measures for children. The DfE have confirmed that children with the underlying conditions outlined in the extract from guidance below, should not attend school for 12 weeks as part of these measures.

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who have:

- *chronic (long-term) 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 \(MS\)](#), a learning disability or cerebral palsy*
- *[diabetes](#)*
- *problems with their spleen – for example, [sickle cell](#) disease or if they have had your spleen removed*
- *a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as [HIV and AIDS](#), or medicines such as [steroid tablets](#) or [chemotherapy](#)*
- *being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)*
- *those who are pregnant*

There are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If they are in this category, next week the NHS in England will directly contact them with advice about the more stringent measures they should take in order to keep themselves and others safe. For now, they should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- *people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication*
- *people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy*
- *people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment*
- *people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)*
- *people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)*

As I prepare this update for you, I am aware that Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, is due to make an announcement about education this evening. I do not know what the content of this will be but please rest assured that we will carefully plan for whatever is said and share this with you tomorrow.

I do not want to overwhelm parents with emails regarding this subject but I do want you to feel well-informed of the school's response to any announcement.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in our school; your comments and messages of support are very helpful at this time.

With kindest regards

Catherine Forrester
Headteacher