



22 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

With COVID-19 cases rising again in Milton Keynes I writing to ask for your help to control the spread of infection.

Over the summer we saw a fall in COVID-19 cases locally, and I'd like to thank you for everything that you did to achieve this and the sacrifices you made to keep all of our families and communities safe.

However, like many places across the country, COVID-19 cases are rising once more in Milton Keynes. This means that we will continue to have cases in our nurseries, schools and colleges, but it does not necessarily follow that transmission has occurred within the settings. The local Public Health team is working closely with Public Health England and our education settings to ensure that they remain safely open for as many children and young people as possible.

This year, we are asking families to think twice about trick or treating, and not to get together in groups of more than six people. That advice applies to whatever you might be doing over the school holiday. No-one wants to stop people having fun, and we've all sacrificed a lot of time with friends and families already. However, this is a crucial time of year when the NHS needs everyone to help control COVID-19 so that our hospitals aren't overrun, and so staff can spend time and effort dealing with non-covid clinical care.

We need your help to break the chain of transmission and bring the virus under control. Information outlining these controls is enclosed. I know these measures are difficult when we want to meet with friends and family, but we have seen that they can make a difference. We must do all we can to protect those we love and care for at this difficult time and avoid the further restrictions that are being imposed in other areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicky Head'.

Vicky Head

Director of Public Health, Milton Keynes



Information on how to stop the spread of Coronavirus

- Observe **Hands – Face – Space**.
 - **Wash your hands** frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser
 - **Wear a face covering** correctly when you are required to do so
 - **Keep 2 metres apart** from anyone you don't live with)
- If your child displays coronavirus symptoms:
 - High temperature
 - Continuous cough
 - Loss of or change in sense of taste or smell

please keep them at home, request a test and notify the nursery, school or college. If your child's test is positive, they will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days and the household for 14 days.

You can book a free test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

- Please limit the number of social contacts you and your family have outside of your household, avoid mixing in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained, and meet outside where possible. Remember that meeting in groups of more than 6 is illegal and you could face a fine of at least £1,000. Please explain this to your children/young people, as they have a responsibility to follow these rules too. This remains important during half term.
- If your child uses school or public transport, please emphasise to them the importance of getting on and off the bus in an orderly fashion, not crowding onto a busy bus if another bus is coming, observing mask wearing at all times (unless exempt), following seating plans where these are in place, and keeping the windows open to ensure the bus is properly ventilated.
- The NHS Test and Trace system has a vital role to play in controlling the virus. The NHS has launched a new app to help us safely check into venues and inform us if we've been in contact with someone that has tested positive. To find out more and download the app please visit <https://covid19.nhs.uk>. If you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace system you must follow their advice and stay at home for 14 days to avoid any risk of spreading the virus to others.