 **COVID-19 communications toolkit for schools / early years setting**

COVID-19 infection rates in the borough are still too high. It’s really important at this time that we continue to share messages with our communities to make them aware of the ongoing COVID-19 situation and remind them what they can do to play their part to help turn this around and help stop the spread of the virus.

We need your help to keep sharing COVID-19 safety messages through your own school communication channels. Please find below some suggested text for you to use in your school newsletters and on social media channels.

We also want to make sure that parents and carers are prepared should they or their young children need to self-isolate, if they are identified as a contact of a confirmed case.

If a child or parent within the household is self-isolating but a sibling needs to get to school, there are some options below that families can follow to help the child to get to school safely without risking spreading the virus.

* If a child is old enough, lives within three miles of the school, and are able to, they should walk, cycle or scoot to school on their own.
* If the school is over three miles and the child is old enough, they should use public transport to get to school by themselves, if it is available.
* If the child is too young or public transport is not available parents should initially approach other family members or neighbours to take the non-isolating child to school (as per national guidance allowing for informal childcare).

There have been a small number of cases reported where a parent has had absolutely no-one else to take their child to school. In this instance, a parent could bring a self-isolating child and the non-isolating child in a vehicle to school. If the non-isolating child is old enough, they can then be dropped off without any contact being made between the isolating sibling and anyone else attending the school.  If the pupil is too young to get out of the car and walk the short distance to the school, the school should arrange with the parent to collect the child and take them into the school.  In this situation schools have been advised the staff member should maintain two metre social distancing from the vehicle and anyone else inside the vehicle and they should not at any time put their head in the vehicle.

This week the borough's COVID-19 infection rate has been the highest in the Cheshire and Merseyside area. We can all play our part to turn this around by following these simple measures.

* Wash your hands frequently
* Wear a face covering
* Make space by keeping a two-metre distance from others
* Get a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms by calling 119 or visiting [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Pupils and families are also reminded to follow the COVID-19 safety measures we have in place at our school.

* All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school/early years premises including outdoor yard areas.
* Parents/carers to arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/collecting their child – please do not congregate and maintain social distancing as we know that the virus is easily transmitted from person to person.
* In schools/early year settings where it has been agreed that a parent/carer can enter the school premises for drop-off and pick-up, only **one** adult should enter.
* Students are to avoid congregating outside school and mixing with students from other schools and should go directly home.

**What to do if you have a child self-isolating but you have another child still attending school**

It’s important that any child not showing COVID-19 symptoms or any child who has not been advised to self-isolate by their school or the NHS test and trace service remains in school so they can continue with their education.

If an adult or a child within a household is self-isolating but you have another child that needs to get to school, there are some options below you can follow to help your non-isolating child get to school safely without risking spreading the virus.

* If there is another adult within the household not isolating, they can take them to school.
* If a child is old enough, lives within three miles of the school, and are able to, they should walk, cycle or scoot to school on their own.
* If the school is over three miles and the child is old enough, they should use public transport to get to school by themselves, if it is available.
* If the child is too young or public transport is not available parents should initially approach other family members or neighbours to take the non-isolating child to school (as per national guidance allowing for informal childcare).
* If the above options are not suitable for your circumstances, please get in touch with the school and we will work with you to make alternative arrangements.
* You might not have symptoms, but you could still spread COVID-19. Remember: wash hands, cover face, make space. Let’s play our part to help turn this around.
* Our rates are too high in Cheshire West and Chester. Remember to stay safe on the school run: wash hands, cover face, make space. Let’s play our part to help turn this around.
* This week the borough's COVID-19 infection rate has been the highest in the Cheshire and Merseyside area. Let’s play our part to help turn this around. Remember to wash hands, cover face and make space.
* On the school run? Remember to stay safe at the school gates by maintaining a safe distance and play your part to help turn this around.
* To help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 only one adult should enter a school premises, including the school playground, to drop off and pick up a child.
* When you're dropping your child off or when collecting them from school, please remember to maintain a safe distance. Play your part to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.
* When dropping your child off or when collecting them from school, please remember to wear a face covering to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Play your part to turn this around.
* Don’t congregate on the way to or from school. Play your part to turn this around.
* Travel to school safely. You must wear a face covering for the whole of your journey if you are travelling on school transport or if you are aged over 11 on public transport, unless you are exempt. For the latest travel guidance visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>