

An important message from Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Lead Member for Children and Families and Julie Billett, Director of Public Health for Islington and Camden

Dear Parents and Carers,

Islington Council's top priority is keeping people safe and supported throughout the pandemic. As a parent or carer, we want to reassure you that our work with schools to ensure they are kept safe for children, school staff and their families is our top priority.

Schools in Islington spent the summer holidays putting in place measures to protect children, staff and their families and they continue to keep those plans under close review to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

You will be aware that the government recently announced new national restrictions to help stop the spread of coronavirus, but these measures do not affect schools, which will remain open for all children.

Like many other boroughs, there have been a very small number of confirmed coronavirus cases in our Islington schools – in each case, the council works closely with the school to ensure appropriate action is taken to keep everyone safe. If you would like further information on the measures schools are putting in place, contact your child's school or email pupilservices@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 3747.

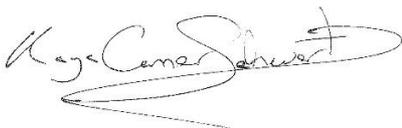
School is the best place for children and young people to learn, build their confidence and support their wellbeing and development. That's why it's so important that we all work together to make sure we keep schools safe. To help protect yourselves, your families and everyone in your community, please remember to:

- **Stick with six** – do not meet with more than six people at any time, indoors or outdoors and try to limit the number of people you see socially over a short period. When meeting with anyone who isn't from your household, stay 2m apart.
- **Wash your hands regularly** – for 20 seconds, with soap and running water, especially before and after school, before and after eating, and after using a tissue or the toilet.
- Wear a **face covering** in public places, including shops and public transport and when picking up or dropping off your child.
- **Create space** – stay 2m apart from people who are not from your household, particularly in public places. **Please do not stay and chat at the school gates at drop off and pick up times. Remember to keep a safe distance from other people outside your household or your child's bubble group.**

Please find more useful information over the page on how we're here to help with financial and practical support and help getting into jobs and training.

Thank you for playing your part in tackling this virus and keeping you, your friends and your family safe.

Yours,



Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Lead Member for Children and Families



Julie Billett

Director of Public Health for Islington and Camden

Check your symptoms

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or someone in your household start to develop any these symptoms make sure you self-isolate straight away and book a covid test - either by calling 119 or booking online at: www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

We know it can be hard to get a test - but please keep trying because new appointments and test kits should become available throughout the day. There is now a local test centre in Islington - but you must book before you visit.

Support if you're on a low income

People on a low income and who cannot work from home may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Details of how to claim will be available on our website www.islington.gov.uk

Help getting into work or training

Anyone who is unemployed or facing unemployment who needs help getting back into work or retraining please contact our iWork team on 020 7527 2706 or email iWork@islington.gov.uk

Flu vaccination

Primary school and Year 7 pupils can get the free, annual flu vaccine at school – this is even more important this year. Flu vaccines will be administered through the school.

You can contact the **school nursing team** with any questions or concerns about Covid-19, for example if you are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group or if there are grandparents or vulnerable family members at home. Email whh-tr.IslingtonSchoolNursing@nhs.net or call 020 3316 8021.

We are here to help

Please remember that the council continues to support people in the borough who are struggling due to coronavirus and need practical help or support and the **We are Islington** helpline is open 7 days a week. Call 020 7527 8222 or email weareislington@islington.gov.uk.