



Children's Services

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Director

Children's Services

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Our ref: GH/JC
Enquiries to: Jane Cooke
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Date: 25th June 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

I am writing to you following discussion with Greater Manchester Police in Rochdale Borough, who have received an increasing number of calls about children and families who are not following the requirement to isolate after being sent home from school and told to do so. The purpose of this letter is to ensure you understand what is expected and what could happen if you do not comply.

Government guidance states that if children are sent home from school **because they are themselves positive** then they and family members must isolate in their homes for 10 days. Guidance (please see the links below), is clear about the things that you cannot do. It says:

- ✗ Do not go to work, school or public places. Work from home if you can
- ✗ Do not use public transport or taxis
- ✗ Do not go out to get food or medicine. Order it on line, by phone or ask someone to bring it to your home
- ✗ Do not have visitors to your home unless they provide essential care
- ✗ Do not go out to exercise – you can exercise in your garden if you have one

These points apply to children and adults.

If children are sent home from school **because they are a contact of someone positive** their family does not need to isolate (unless they develop symptoms) but the child themselves **must**. This means isolating in their homes for 10 days. **They should not be out of the house at all or mixing with anyone from another household. Your child cannot go out to play or mix with friends/other family (outside of your household), or collect siblings from school when told to isolate.**

Breach of self-isolation could lead to a substantial fine, because of the risks to other members of the community. The risk is greater currently, as infection levels are rising. It's important that you know that any reports of children and families not isolating when told they must, are being shared with Greater Manchester Police who are following up with home visits.

We want all families to understand that when your child's school send them home to isolate, they are simply following government guidance too (see link below) and this guidance is in place so that we can stop the spread of the virus. It is important that you are aware of this and understand the consequences of not following the requirements that currently exist.

Please work with us to try and reduce the risk of infection and the numbers of people affected. You can do this by following the guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Support is available to help you with isolation, both financially and practically
<http://rochdale.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/Pages/covid-19-help-for-vulnerable-adults.aspx>

There is also a handy checklist on '10 Ways to 10 Days' - <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/do-your-bit/10-ways-to-do-your-10-days-checklist-for-self-isolating-safely/>



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