

PUBLIC HEALTH

Council House, Manor Square
Solihull, West Midlands
B913QB
www.solihull.gov.uk

Date: 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have heard that there has been an increase in COVID in Solihull this week.

We really want to get this under control so that we do not see an increase in people needing hospital treatment and a set-back in plans to reopen shops, restaurants and allow people to meet in groups. Many older people have now been vaccinated but are not yet fully protected. People under the age of 50 are not vaccinated and so are still at risk of getting and spreading COVID.

We want your help. There are some practical things that you can do to bring these numbers down.

Although schools are open which is really important for children and young people's learning and physical and mental health, **we are still in lockdown**. Apart from pupils going into school, the only change is that people can now meet **one other person outdoors**. Meeting in other people's houses or in larger groups is not yet allowed because of the real risk that this will allow the virus to spread again.

No change will be made to this until the 29th March at the earliest. We have attached chart which shows the earliest date that any changes will be made nationally. This will depend on vaccination roll-out, rates staying low and no major changes such as new variants.

If you or someone in your family has COVID symptoms, please get a PCR test by booking on-line. If you do test positive, good ventilation, avoiding sharing plates, cutlery, mugs or towels, careful cleaning and staying at least 2m apart from household members and if possible in a separate room can help stop other people in your family getting it.

If you don't have symptoms, you can get tested free at our testing centre at North Solihull and Tudor Grange Leisure Centres which are open 7 days a week and can be booked on line www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/covid-testing. If your child/teenager is at secondary school, please support them to test twice a week using the kits your school will have given them. Please also take extra care at the school gates or when you go out to shop or for other essential purposes.

Help is available from Solihull Council if you do test positive so that you and any close contacts can self-isolate for the 10 days as is legally required to protect other people.

When you or a relative are offered COVID vaccination please do have one. More information is available about this here. www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/

Thank you for everything you and all our schools are doing to help tackle COVID.

Ruth Tennant
Director of Public Health

STEP 1: 8 March

- Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.
- Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person. No household mixing indoors.
- Wraparound childcare.
- Stay at home.
- Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6).

29 March

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.
- Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).
- Minimise travel. No holidays.
- Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.

- Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.
- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.
- Libraries and community centres.
- Personal care premises.
- All retail.
- Outdoor hospitality.
- All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).
- Domestic overnight stays (household only).
- Self-contained accommodation (household only).
- Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).
- Minimise travel. No international holidays.
- Event pilots begin.

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.

- Indoor entertainment and attractions.
- 30 person limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).
- Domestic overnight stays.
- Organised indoor adult sport.
- Most significant life events (30).
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).
- Remaining accommodation.
- Some large events (except for pilots) - capacity limits apply. Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%. Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%. Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.
- International travel - subject to review.

STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.

By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following (subject to review):

- No legal limits on social contact.
- Nightclubs.
- Larger events.
- No legal limit on all life events.