

05 November 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As you will be aware, England's second national "lockdown" began on Thursday 5 November. The government only released its updated guidance for education settings late in the afternoon of the 4th November.

A link to that guidance is provided here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

These are, of course, extremely difficult times for schools around the country. We can continue to assure you that all Esteem academies are continually updating their own risk assessments in response to government guidance and national and local restrictions.

The new guidance does refer specifically to those pupils and members of staff who may be classed as 'extremely clinically vulnerable' and may previously have been 'shielding'. These individuals are advised to stay at / work from home, if possible. If your child falls into this category, please contact your academy directly to discuss with the headteacher how he/she will be supported with their education while remaining at home.

These new restrictions, along with the growing scale of the pandemic and the instructions being given from the government's track and trace and public health teams, make it increasingly difficult and complicated to continually maintain full staffing attendance levels at some of our academies. It continues to be the case that, as with many schools across the country, we are having to close 'bubbles' due to staff and pupils having to self-isolate. We can assure you that each Esteem academy has a plan for blended learning (face-to-face, online and home) if they are affected in this way.

Schools can receive advice and support, at national and local level, if they are worried about anyone's safety or health. Please bear in mind that the actions taken by Esteem academies will always be in line with national Covid-19 guidance, which must be followed by all schools.

The staff and leaders in our academies have worked incredibly hard to support children and young people throughout this pandemic. During the next four weeks they will be doing everything possible to continue to offer our pupils safe and happy learning environments.

Yours sincerely,



Julian Scholefield
Chief Executive Officer
Esteem Multi-Academy Trust