

Our Ref: JP/RH/TK 041

Date: 29 October 2020

Dear Education Leader

Today the Government has announced that Staffordshire will be raised to the High Alert Level for Covid-19, from Saturday, 31 October, 2020.

New tighter restrictions will be in force to try and limit the spread of infection and stop the current rising rate of cases across the county.

The main change is that it will be illegal for households to mix indoors **socially** with others, unless part of a support bubble. This includes in people's homes and public indoor places.

Across the county, education settings have been doing an amazing job since September to maintain education and childcare for our children, young people and adults and to ensure that those who need isolate at home are able to continue their studies, when appropriate.

It is now more important than ever that we get this virus under control, stop the spread, and do everything we can to avoid being escalated to the Very High Alert Level, which would see more restrictions put in place.

You can help with this, by reminding children, parents and staff **not to congregate in groups of more than one household indoors or more than six people outdoors**, not to come into schools and other educational settings if they are waiting for the results of a Covid-19 test, and to continue to follow the law and government guidance.

The rules are summarised below, and more details are available on the gov.uk website. Below is a summary of the new guidance:

- You must not mix socially with people you do not live with, in any indoor setting whether at home or, for example, a pub or restaurant, unless they are part of your support.
- You may continue to mix with people outdoors (including in a garden or a park) but you must not meet in a group more than six, and you must follow social distancing rules.
- If you need to travel, you should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.

- Voluntary and charity groups can continue to support and care for people in their local communities.
- Full guidance can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Thank you for your hard work in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes.

Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized, cursive script.

Richard Harling
Director for Health and Care