



# COVID-19 SCHOOL REOPENING NEWSLETTER

Edition 4: 26 August 2020

## Reopening of schools

It is already 2 weeks since all our schools successfully opened for young people and the feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

This includes the feedback received at meetings with Parent Council representatives, where they have reflected on the hard work of staff, good organisation and the welcoming atmosphere as pupils returned.

I would like to thank you once again for your patience and understanding as we put in place the very detailed arrangements for all our education settings to reopen, and your feedback since .

The focus for our schools and Early Years facilities has been to build on the work of the initial week and ensure that all the new practices, routines and arrangements are fully established to ensure that all our education settings are as COVID-safe as possible.

## Test and Protect

It is clear that the threat of COVID-19 remains significant and we must not lose focus on that.

This requires ever present vigilance and it is vital that nobody attends school or uses school transport if they are displaying any symptoms. Our best chance of keeping our education settings COVID-free is by keeping it out in the first instance.

Young people and staff members must not attend if they or any household member are showing symptoms of COVID-19, such as new persistent cough, temperature and/or loss or change in ability to taste or smell. Should any young person or staff member display symptoms during the school day they will be taken to a room and kept isolated from others. Where it is a pupil, a single member of staff wearing appropriate PPE will stay with them until a parent/carer can collect.

The person should seek a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. This can be done via the government portal [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). In line with national guidance, until the test results are received the person and members of their household should self-isolate.

Should the test come back positive, the school must be informed immediately. An internal process will then be followed to establish a joint incident management team with NHS Borders and instigate the test, trace, isolate process. This will require schools to provide information regarding young people and staff members who were in classes at certain times and then they may be contacted by contract tracers as required.

Appropriate cleaning will be undertaken as required and decisions around class/school closures taken by the joint incident management team.

Pupils required to self-isolate will be supported with home learning.



# COVID-19 SCHOOL REOPENING NEWSLETTER

Edition 4: 26 August 2020

## Face coverings

Following the Scottish Government's new guidance on face coverings a separate communication to parents is being finalised and will be issued separately on this matter.

## School transport

Since schools have reopened our Passenger Transport team have received lots of enquiries about school transport arrangements.

Please check our dedicated webpage via [www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolreopening](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolreopening) and the school transport FAQs before getting in touch.

## Pick up/drop off

Please note that individual pick up and drop off arrangements are in place where required in schools. Many of these will restrict parental access to playgrounds.

Please adhere to any restrictions established by schools and where you are dropping off or picking up pupils please ensure that you maintain social distancing from other adults and young people from other households.

## Extra-curricular activities

There remains a need for very careful consideration about the delivery of some extra-curricular activities, practical lessons and access to school for visiting staff and other professionals.

We expect national guidance on a range of areas to be developed and provided to the Council over the coming weeks and will consider and act upon these as quickly as possible.

Some activities have already restarted safely, such as breakfast and out of school clubs, but some sporting and musical activities remain on hold.

## Trips and camps

As you will appreciate, some long standing plans for trips or camps are having to be reviewed in light of the current restrictions, both here and abroad.

In most cases, school trips and camps are unlikely to be taking place until restrictions are significantly eased. We appreciate this is disappointing, however it is essential in keeping our young people and staff as safe as possible.

Following continued contact with Parent Council representatives we will be working with schools to explore options for next year to ensure that young people do not miss out on valuable experiences.



# COVID-19 SCHOOL REOPENING NEWSLETTER

Edition 4: 26 August 2020

## Flu immunisation

Schools will shortly be providing information to parents and carers regarding the annual flu immunisation programme.

We would encourage as many young people as possible to be immunised to help protect themselves and families during the winter flu season.

Plans are being developed with NHS to ensure other elements of the normal immunisation programme, eg HPV, which have been missed are rescheduled.

## Ongoing communication

We continue to meet weekly with Parent Council chairs. This has given us extremely helpful and valuable information and guidance. Please continue to feed any matters through your Parent Council in the first instance.

This feedback is also contributing the communications and updates which we will continue to provide on a regular basis.

**Tracey Logan**

Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council