



Leader's Office

Ealing Council, Perceval House
14/16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing,
London W5 2HL



020 8825 6833



07903 424 905



julian.bell@ealing.gov.uk



@juliangbell

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: New national restrictions

I hope you and your family are keeping well. You will be aware of the [new national restrictions](#) that came into force from Thursday 5th November. The measures were taken by the government following scientific advice that further measures were needed to control the spread of the virus, reduce pressure on the NHS and save lives.

The new restrictions mean that **everyone must stay at home and may only leave for the following reasons:**

- For education
- For work, if you cannot work from home
- For exercise and recreation outdoors, with your household, support bubble or on your own with one person from another household (socially distanced)
- For all medical reasons, appointments, and to escape injury or harm
- To shop for food and essential items
- And to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer.

Schools will remain open and your child/young person should continue to attend. Being at school is very important for children's learning and wellbeing. Children remain at very low risk of being severely ill from coronavirus and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being in school far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus.

Most children originally identified as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) no longer need to follow this advice. Speak to your GP or specialist clinician, if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place. Your school will make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to continue your education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

Keeping schools open

Schools have worked really hard to put in a number of protective measures to reduce the risk of infection in school. As the infection rate in the community is high, there are likely to be further cases of Covid-19 in Ealing schools over the coming months. In these cases, students or staff who have been identified as 'close contacts' will be advised to self-isolate for 2 weeks. Schools will organise appropriate learning provision for anyone who is self-isolating at home.

Additional measures for older pupils from Monday 9th November

From Monday 9th November, the government announced that secondary-aged pupils are expected to wear face coverings **when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained**. Please support our efforts to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff both inside and outside school. We also want to ask for your support in encouraging your child not to congregate with other pupils around school entrances at the start and end of the day.

Ealing has amongst the highest infection rates in London. We all need to work together during this coming month to significantly bring down the infection rates and keep us all safe. It is really important that we continue to observe the following

Hands– wash our hands regularly for 20 seconds

Face– wear a cloth [face covering](#) (e.g. in shops, public transport)

Space– maintain a 2 metre social distance where possible

Isolate and test– if you or someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss of taste/smell), however mild, you must all [stay at home](#) and the person with symptoms get tested as soon as possible. Apply for a test [online](#) (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>) or call 119. Some people may be eligible for [self-isolation funding](#).

Latest government guidance can be found on www.gov.uk/coronavirus

We understand that there may be times over the next month that may be challenging.

Please remember to think about your mental health and wellbeing and to reach out for support if you need it.

You can get in touch with Ealing's Family Information Service, who can signpost you to available support 020 8825 5588, (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm) children@ealing.gov.uk Alternatively you can visit our Ealing Families Directory for general information and advice www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Julian Bell
Leader, London Borough of Ealing



Cllr Yvonne Johnson
Cabinet Member for Schools & Childrens'
Services