

As we look to come out of a second national lockdown on Wednesday, we move into tier 3 (very high). Although rates are falling in Slough, they are not falling quickly and cases remain high. This is reflected in the highest level of restrictions now in place until at least 16th December.

A national priority is to keep schools open and we remain committed to supporting our staff and families to maintain good attendance wherever possible. It has been inspiring to see children so happy and eager to learn and humbling to see the heroic efforts made by staff to engage and enrich our pupils. If your children are not self isolating or unwell then they should be attending school. Slough Council will be enforcing attendance from January 2021.

Current status:

The cases per 100,000 (297) in Slough is falling slowly with an increase of 42 cases compared to the previous week (26th Nov).

Fewer members of staff are currently self isolating, following the effects of the second lockdown. However covid continues to impact greatly on staffing so we ask that you are patient with staff changes that are made.

Two positive cases (both children) have been confirmed in Y5 (Fri 27th Nov) and Y3 (Mon 30th Nov). Both cases were from the same family and neither child were at school with symptoms and in both cases the family acted swiftly and appropriately.

In both cases around 15 children were sent home to self isolate for 14 days plus one member of staff. Direct contact was limited to one day and involved those sitting within 2 metres and friendship groups. Some parents have questioned why the whole class was not sent home. When we have a confirmed case we have to work through a process with The Department for Education. They ask a series of detailed questions and then advise on the correct course of action. In both of these cases, only one day was a possible infection risk so we looked at what the children and staff were doing on that day, where they were sitting and what close contact there might have been. We are advised not to send children home unnecessarily so we include only those children who were in direct and close contact.

Affected areas are always cleaned thoroughly.

If teachers are not also self isolating then we will direct children to the website, where there is two weeks' worth of work for children to consolidate skills for each year group.

In situations where the whole class self isolate then we will activate dojo or tapestry for online learning.

Free school meals are provided for eligible families during school directed self isolation periods.

Changes in routines

- As Slough moves into tier 3 we will maintain our current risk assessment, which was updated following the national lockdown
- Year group bubbles are being protected as much as possible. Staff are being careful about maintaining social distance. This is not always possible with young children and once year groups are in their bubbles then children are not expected to be socially distant from each other
- Face to face meetings are not happening unless there is no alternative and they are necessary for the child
- Classrooms and other spaces are ventilated as much as possible with windows or doors open and then fully opened when children are not there

Keeping positive

- We are truly appreciative of your support. It makes so much difference to hear positive feedback so do let us know when you are happy
- We are working hard to get communication out to you in a useful and timely way. A new E newsletter will start this week and will seek to bring news into one place. This bulletin may well become part of that newsletter in time
- You have all been so responsive at clearing the playgrounds quickly and limiting adults in this area so thank you. Well done to all those children coming into school independently too!

Key Documents:

Cippenham School risk assessment:

<C:\Users\Itehabsim\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\5PZ5X5EF\2020.09.07 bulletin 1.docx O:\Teams\2020-21\Covid-19>

Guidance

Staying at home guidance PHE:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Guidance on opening schools: (please note some of this guidance has been updated 19/10/20)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Guidance for parents:

[guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term.](#)

Guidance for people living in VERY HIGH risk areas (tier 3)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937902/COVID-19_Tier_3_Very_High_Poster_PRINT.pdf

Guidance for people living in HIGH risk areas (tier 2)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938048/COVID-19_Tier_Posters_2020_Final_High_Print.pdf