

New Siblands Primary
Gillingstool
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2EG
Tel. 01454 866754
DfE School Number 803/7031
enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk
www.newsiblands.org.uk



"Achievement, Belonging, Celebration"

Valuing every child through fostering independence,
inclusion, trust, respect and support

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

New Siblands Secondary
Easton Hill Road
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2JU
Tel. 01454 862888

6th November 2020

Re: Updates to government advice

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you earlier this week about government advice for schools during as we enter the lockdown. This advice was updated on Wednesday and Thursday, so I just want to let you know about the changes.

Extremely clinically vulnerable pupils

Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. You are advised to speak to your child's GP or specialist clinician to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Please let your child's teacher know if you think this applies to your child.

Pupils whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised **not** to attend school or childcare during the period where this advice is in place. School will provide home learning during this period.

Pupils who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education or childcare.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter from government / health shortly confirming this advice.

Please see the bottom of this letter for government definitions of extremely clinically vulnerable. I have also included the definition of clinically vulnerable. Please note that clinically vulnerable pupils can continue to attend school.

Face coverings

We expect there to be additional clarification to the guidance for already issued to special schools on wearing face coverings outside of the classrooms very soon. We will hold back on changing our current advice at the present time until we receive this clarification. We will update you as soon as we are able to.

The advice for school transport remains that pupils from Y7 upwards should wear face coverings on school transport, as they have been doing since September. It is important to note that face coverings need to be regularly washed and changed. Please provide your child with two face coverings so that they can wear a different one on alternate days and they can be washed in between.

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We understand that the changes caused by entering a new period of restrictions could be a cause of anxiety for both you and your child. We will continue to keep safety at the heart of everything we do in order to reduce this. Please talk to me or Hazel if you have any concerns.

Best wishes,

Government definitions:

Those with the following conditions fall into the **clinically extremely vulnerable group who should not attend school:**

- solid organ transplant recipients
- people with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- people with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- people with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell)
- people on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- adults with Down's syndrome
- adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (Stage 5)
- women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired
- other people who have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs. GPs and hospital clinicians have been provided with guidance to support these decision

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Those in the following group count as **clinically vulnerable** and **can continue to attend school**:

- have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- have diabetes
- have chronic kidney disease
- have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections
- are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)