

# Early Years Webinar

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Bryony O'Connor, Head of Service,  
Public Health**

**Helen Shearer, Head of Start Well**

Please email your questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Latest Public Health Position

For the 7 days up to and including 27<sup>th</sup> November:

- Case rate: 7-day rate per 100,000 = 221.5 (↓ 33% on previous 7 days)
- Case rate among those aged 60 years +: 7-day rate per 100,000: 170.6 (↓ 23% on previous 7 days)
- Testing rate: 7-day average per 100,000 = 337.4 (↓ on previous 7 days)
- Positivity = 10.6% (↓ on previous 7 days)

See more at: <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/coronavirus>

# Tier 3 restrictions

From Wednesday 2nd December, Bolton is in the Tier 3 (Very High Alert) level of coronavirus restrictions

For a summary and FAQs please see Bolton Council website

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-1/local-restrictions-cannot/1>

For further advice and information please email [covidenquiries@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:covidenquiries@bolton.gov.uk)

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Tier 3 restrictions

Setting	Tier 3: Very High alert
Education	Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for children and childcare bubbles permitted.
Meeting friends and family	No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles, Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces.
Bars, pubs and restaurants	Hospitality is closed with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery
Retail	Open
Entertainment	Indoor venues closed
Personal care	Open
Travelling	Avoid travelling out of the areas, other than where necessary. Reduce the number of journeys made where possible.
Overnight stays	No overnight stays outside of local areas unless necessary (e.g. work, school)
Accommodation	Closed (with limited exceptions e.g. work)

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Tier 3 restrictions

Setting	Tier 3: Very High alert
Work and business	Everyone who can work from home should do so.
Places of worship	Open but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble
Weddings and funerals	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Receptions not permitted.
Exercise	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place unless with household or bubble.
Indoor leisure (gym/swim)	Open
Large events - elite sport, live performances, and business	Events should not take place; drive-in events permitted

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Christmas bubbles

**Between 23 and 27 December, you can:**

- form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households
- only be in one Christmas bubble-you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home in line with Tier 3 -up to 6 people
- If you form a Christmas bubble, you should not meet socially with friends and family that you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble
- You should travel to meet those in your Christmas bubble and return home between the 23 and 27 December. Anyone travelling to or from Northern Ireland may travel on the 22 and 28 December.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

Letters have been sent to people in the clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) groups advising that they no longer need to stay away from work or school as of 2nd December.

However, people in CEV groups should continue to keep the number of social interactions low and try to reduce the amount of time spent in settings where they are unable to maintain social distancing e.g. gatherings with large numbers of people, especially indoors.

Very few children are at highest risk of severe disease due to the virus. Clinician reviews are taking place to confirm whether children and young people previously identified as CEV are still thought to be at highest risk

If parents/carers have not yet received their letter they should contact their GP or consultant

# Update on contact tracing guidance

- GM Contact Tracing Guidance for Education Settings has been updated and signed off by the GM Public Health Advice to Schools Group (2nd December)
- The new guidance also includes the Public Health England NW Resource Pack
- The local action card will be reviewed and updated to reflect changes and communicated to Education settings through Start Well



# Update on contact tracing guidance

## What is a Contact?

1. A person who has maintained appropriate social distancing (over 2 metres) **is not** classed as a 'close contact' and **is not** be required to self-isolate.
2. The main categories that would lead to someone being identified as a 'close contact' in an education setting are as follows:
  - a) Face to face contact with a confirmed case for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation and unprotected skin to skin physical contact\*
  - b) Travelling in a small vehicle with a person who is a confirmed case\*.
  - c) Contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact\*
  - d) Contact within 2 metres with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes\* as a one-off exposure.
  - e) Sexual Contacts

\* Any interactions that have only taken place through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen is not considered sufficient contact. These people **should not** be considered relevant contacts for the purposes of contact tracing and isolation.

# Update on contact tracing guidance

## Changes to the role of the GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (GMICTH) and the thresholds for 'Complex Contact Tracing'

- The GM Integrated Contact Hub **does not** need to be notified of individual cases in education settings. Where the GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub are contacted about individual cases in education settings they will direct the reporting party to the LA SPOC

**Updated documents will be shared ASAP with the following;**

**When you are notified by a parent or staff member and you have not been contacted by Test & Trace directly;**

- Email the LA SPOC ([Covid19contacttracing@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19contacttracing@bolton.gov.uk)) as soon as possible and copy Start Well ([Startwell@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:Startwell@bolton.gov.uk)) into the email. *Early years setting must notify OFSTED (discussed later in this session)*
- *Where the PHE Northwest Health Protection team are contacted about individual cases in education settings they will direct the reporting party to the DfE helpline*

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Update on contact tracing guidance

For early years and educational settings there are thresholds for GM Hub involvement. The **LA Single Point of Contact** will consider referral to the GMICTH on behalf of the setting for the following:

Early Years and primary schools	Secondary schools and colleges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% (or more) of a bubble is affected within 14 days – for example, if there are 3 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a bubble of 30 people.</li> <li>• 10% (or more) of staff are affected within 14 days – for example, if there are 6 or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a staff of 60.</li> <li>• 3 (or more) bubbles within the setting contain at least one confirmed case.</li> <li>• There have been any admissions to hospital amongst students or staff members due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• If the setting is for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND).</li> <li>• If the setting is a boarding school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 or more students are confirmed cases in a single school year within 14 days</li> <li>• 10% (or more) of staff are affected within 14 days – for example, if there are 6 or more confirmed cases in a staff of 60.</li> <li>• 3 (or more) bubbles within the setting contain at least one confirmed case.</li> <li>• There have been any admissions to hospital amongst students or staff members due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• If the setting is for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND).</li> <li>• If the setting is a boarding school.</li> </ul>

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Further updates

Helen Shearer  
Head of Start Well



# FSM over holidays Covid Winter Grant Scheme

- Schools are using WONDE system to distribute supermarket vouchers to parents
- £20 per week per pupil eligible for FSM for 2 weeks £40 in total
  - Parents instantly receive a text, email or both from WONDE asking them to choose their preferred supermarket
  - Payment to WONDE directly from Council so schools will not need to be involved in invoicing/payment
- **Children under 5** families in receipt of Council Tax Relief
- Two year olds not taking up two year funding contacted offered eligibility checks
- Will also run for February half-term

## End of term

- Term ends for most term time education settings 18<sup>th</sup> December
- DfE line has been clear that schools should remain open
- Further comms from the Council to remind children to adhere to guidelines over the holidays
- Consideration for how you manage test and tracing end of term
- Further comms will be shared supporting settings and messages to families and a proforma letter to support your process for the beginning of the holiday period and the end

# *Putting wellbeing at the heart of early years practice*

- NCB recently hosted five free *Learn – Explore – Debate* events focused on putting wellbeing at the heart of our early years practice.
- The events brought early years practitioners, local authorities, consultants and academics together with officials from the Department for Education and Ofsted to discuss practical ways to support the wellbeing of children and staff.
- The recordings, slides and case studies from the events, including a video from the Department for Education, thanking the early years sector for their work, are now available to view
- Reducing burdens and improving wellbeing in the early years – Department for Education.
- The Department for Education express their thanks to the early years sector, provide an update on the EYFS reforms and set out how they support staff and children's wellbeing
- Ofsted update –Ofsted provide an update on their current plans, share findings from their COVID-19 research and remind us of some of Ofsted's key messages
- [https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/12/putting-wellbeing-at-the-heart-of-our-early-years-practice/?utm\\_source=Foundation+Years&utm\\_campaign=82e873edce-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_03\\_21\\_05\\_01\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8f9a6de061-82e873edce-321562637&mc\\_cid=82e873edce&mc\\_eid=f37a23b859](https://foundationyears.org.uk/2020/12/putting-wellbeing-at-the-heart-of-our-early-years-practice/?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=82e873edce-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-82e873edce-321562637&mc_cid=82e873edce&mc_eid=f37a23b859)

Please email questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)



# Wellbeing *continued*

**Session 1: Introduction to wellbeing and mental health** *Gill Holden sets the context for this round of Learn – Explore – Debate events focused on wellbeing and Debbie Garvey provides an introduction to neuroscience.*

**Session 2: Supporting children's wellbeing .**

*Debbie Garvey provides a historical timeline of wellbeing in early childhood, gives an overview of the key research and theory and explores what children need, putting theory into practice*

**Session 3: Supporting staff wellbeing –**

*Debbie Garvey talks about how we support staff and teams and explores what adults need, including the importance of play*

- *A case study, Lucy Pottinger tells us how she supports staff wellbeing in her nursery, including an appearance from nursery empathy dog Frank!*

**Discussion prompts**

Once you have viewed the above presentations, take some time by yourself or with colleagues to reflect on your practice with the [discussion prompts](#) used in the breakout rooms at the events



# Updated guidance for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak..

The guidance also has added information on:

- The guidance also has added information on:
  - protected characteristics (section 3.1)
  - ventilation and thermal comfort (section 3.3)
  - printable early years action card (section 3.3)
  - printable card on What to do if a child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (section 3.3)
  - the NHS app (section 3.3)
  - visitors to the setting: recruitment, supply staff and students (section 3.5)
- **malleable materials (messy play) (section 3.7)**
- **vaccines and teething (section 3.8)**
- local restriction tiers (section 3.9)
- staff needing to self-isolate after returning from abroad (section 5.2)
- **trips to indoor spaces (including soft play) (section 5.6)**
- parent and child groups (section 5.7)
- childminder with household member self-isolating (section 9.5)

# Who can make a support bubble

- Not everybody can form a support bubble. However on **2 December** the rules changed to widen eligibility for forming a support bubble.
- You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:
  - you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
  - you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
  - your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020
  - your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020
  - you are a child aged 16 or over living alone or with other children and without any adults
  - you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020
  - You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

Please email questions to to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Childminder with household member self-isolating

## 9.5 Childminder with household member self-isolating

- ***Household member self-isolating due to contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)***
- This advice applies where a childminder usually looks after children in their own home, and where a childminder's household member is self-isolating.
- If this is:
  - only as a result of coming into contact with a positive case
  - the household member is not showing symptoms of coronavirus
  - the household member does not require [a test](#)
- The childminder can continue to provide childcare at their registered setting. The childminder should ensure they keep open communication with parents and carers of children attending the setting about the self-isolation.
- The household member who is self-isolating must not have any contact with the children being cared for in the setting. For example, the person isolating must use a separate bathroom where possible. If the person self-isolating has to use a shared bathroom or other communal areas, these must be thoroughly cleaned after every use.

*Please read the guidance in full before amending your risk assessments and procedures.*

Please email questions to to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

# Student placements

## **Visitors to the setting**

- *There will be occasions when visits to the setting are necessary, but settings are encouraged to avoid visitors entering their premises, wherever possible. Visits that allow a vulnerable child to meet a social worker, key worker or other necessary support should continue on site. Visits for SEND therapies should also continue on site.*
- *A record should be kept of all visitors which follows the [guidance on maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace](#).*

## **Supply staff and students**

- *Settings can continue to engage agency staff and students. Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between settings but setting leaders will want to consider how to minimise the number of visitors to the setting where possible.*
- *Where it is necessary to use supply staff, and to welcome visitors to the setting, such as students, those individuals will be expected to comply with settings' arrangements for managing and minimising risk, including taking particular care to maintain distance from other staff.*
- *To minimise the numbers of temporary staff entering the setting and secure best value, settings may wish to use longer assignments with supply staff and agree a minimum number of hours across the year.*
- *The presence of any additional members of staff should be agreed on a weekly rather than a daily basis, where possible, in order to limit contacts.*

# Reporting Partial or Full Closures to Ofsted

## 8.1 Notifications requirements for settings providing childcare

- Ofsted to work with local authorities to find out which early years providers, including childminders, are open or temporarily closed.
- This means that Ofsted requires further information about whether some providers are open or closed.
- If your operating circumstances change (that is, you open or close):
  - let Ofsted know by sending an email to [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) with 'change in operating hours' in the subject field
  - in the body of the email, confirm the unique reference number for each setting and the details of the change - the URN can be found on the setting's registration, inspection report(s), and [Ofsted reports page](#)
- In addition, any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the setting (either child or staff member), or if the setting has been advised to close as a result, should be swiftly reported to Ofsted through the usual notification channels.

### Feedback from providers

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • How many staff were in the whole setting? | How many children were in the whole setting? |
| • When the symptoms started?                | When the test result came back?              |
| • Did we contact the LA & PHE?              | Was it a full closure?                       |

Please email questions to: [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)

**Ofsted's return to inspection in 2021 will happen in phases, with no graded inspections for education or social care providers planned before the summer term.**

With regard to Early years inspections Ofsted state:

- We will carry out a programme of assurance inspections from the start of the spring term. These inspections will confirm whether or not a provider is meeting the early years foundation stage (EYFS) requirements.
- Assurance inspections will be proportionate and risk-based. Providers will be prioritised based on the length of time since their last inspection, and any other relevant information.
- Routine graded inspections will resume in the summer term of 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-phased-return-to-inspections>

## Ofsted to move to 6 year window for routine inspections

- Ofsted is to introduce a [new approach to inspecting nurseries and childminders](#) that will prioritise the inspection of providers rated less than good.
- When full routine early years inspections resume, Ofsted will schedule early years inspections based on the most current risk assessment in order to prioritise the re-inspection of the relatively small proportion of settings where there are concerns.
- Under the new arrangements, all early years providers will be inspected in a 6-year window from the date of their last inspection. Yvette Stanley, National Director for Regulation and Social Care, said:
- *Parents and carers with young children can be assured that the vast majority of childcare provision in England is safe, effective and high quality, and it continues to get better.*
- *The impact of COVID-19 and the interruption of the previous inspection cycle presents the opportunity to rethink our approach and to inspect more proportionately, bringing forward inspections of providers that are a source of concern.*



# Data Collection Frequency Update

The Government have reviewed the frequency of the data collection and that this will be moving to fortnightly from **January 2021**. We will expect a **weekly return on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of December**, with a break for Christmas on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, and then the next return will be due on **7<sup>th</sup> of January 2021**, followed by fortnightly returns.

They will review the data collection frequency again in Spring. They are reserving the right to revert back to weekly testing should it become necessary.

## Letter to all providers from Minister Ford

Minister Ford thanks all providers for their continuing hard work to provide essential childcare and also encourages them to engage with the LA on the data collection process. **They hope this small gesture will go some way to acknowledging the vital role that Early Years providers and staff have played in ensuring children can continue to access high quality childcare throughout the pandemic.**



Vicky Ford MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families  
Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

03 December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you for all your hard work in continuing to provide essential childcare during this very difficult time. This has been no small ask, in continually changing and challenging circumstances. Your ongoing efforts have ensured that children are not missing out on the many benefits of early education and that parents have been able to continue working, or return to work, helping to keep the country running during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been collecting local authority-level data on Early Years childcare provision since April and we have greatly valued your participation in our weekly survey. We have reviewed the need for this collection and, acting on feedback from the sector, have decided we can now move to a fortnightly collection to reduce some of the time and resource pressures on local authorities and providers. However, it remains crucial that the Department continues to have accurate data to ensure there are enough childcare places. My teams use this data as the basis of conversations with local authorities about the childcare market in their area. These conversations about local delivery issues help to shape the future of the childcare market.

One of the best ways in which you can help us to help you during the COVID-19 pandemic is by continuing to provide DfE and Ofsted with up-to-date information. I appreciate that this is an additional task to complete at a time when you are doing so much for the children in your care, but it means that the Department can develop policies, guidance and support tailored to the issues you are facing. We will continue to look for ways to reduce the amount of information we need to ask for and will only



## Bolton Start Well Service

Useful Information for Parents



### What's on for Expectant Parents?

#### Antenatal Clinics

Antenatal clinics across all of our centres are bookings only, through your midwife

Venue	Days	Time
Alexandra Start Well Centre	Monday to Thursday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Farmworth Start Well and Young Peoples Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Harvey Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Oldhams Start Well Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Oxford Grove Start Well Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tonge Start Well Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm
Winifred Kettle Centre	Monday to Friday	9:00am – 5:00pm

#### Breastfeeding support

support and advice from your Public Health nursing team.

contact the infant feeding support team on 01204 462339 for advice and to make an appointment.

#### Well Baby Clinics

Well Baby Clinics are currently open. Call 01204 462902 for more information.

### Healthy Start

are you expecting a baby?

- You may be eligible for:
- free fresh fruit and vegetables
  - free fresh milk

for details on how to apply visit [www.healthystart.gov.uk](http://www.healthystart.gov.uk)

for a better Bolton

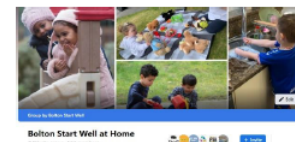
on  
cil

Bolton Start Well

### What's online for Parents?

#### Bolton Start Well on Facebook

Join us on Facebook. Search for Bolton Start Well and follow the links to the Bolton Start Well at Home group for parents of young children in Bolton.



We offer an online timetable of sessions to mirror the classes we were running in our Start Well Centres.

#### Song & Rhyme Time

A range of songs and actions every lunchtime for young children of all ages. Encouraging your children to sing rhymes, using action and sounds, supports their hand/ eye co-ordination. Children love the interaction from you with them and gives them confidence whilst also introducing new words.

Suitable from birth to early school age

#### Hey, Hey, Let's Play

Fun with targeted activities which help you and your child to enjoy playtime, whilst focusing on the golden rules of communication..

For babies from 1 onwards

#### Every day at 1:30pm

#### Monday at 10:30 am

#### Tuesday at 10:30 am

### What are Start Well Centres?

Start Well Centres are places where families with children under the age of five years can share the joys and challenges of parenthood.

They offer a range of activities and integrated support services to help you with every aspect of parenting so your child gets the best possible start in life. During the Covid pandemic, our centres are only open for a restricted range of services

However, our Start Well family support teams are still available to support families and parents-to-be around a whole range of topics related to your child's development and learning, via telephone and video chat.

#### Facebook

In addition, we offer online digital access to your favourite sessions via Facebook. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BoltonStartWellatHome>

#### The Citizen's Portal

To check your eligibility for a range of funded childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, please visit Bolton's Citizen's Portal. [Click here](#) And if you find you are eligible for free hours, call Families Information Services on 01204 332170, who can advise you of the available options in your area.



# Questions

