

Date 21 August 2020

Enquiries to Health Protection Team
Email: health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Head Teacher

Thank you for all your support and hard work in preparing for the school openings in the new environment of COVID-19. We know a lot of consideration and control measures have been put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, we understand there is a continued need to engage parents, carers and the wider school community in supporting these measures.

Therefore, following the re-opening of schools this past week, we have drafted a letter to parents and carers of school-age children. The letter acts as a reminder of the key messages relating to COVID-19, including symptoms and isolation, but, critically, outlines the key measures they can each take to control and prevent the spread of this virus.

Many schools have voiced concerns about the lack of physical distancing among parents and carers at school gates and in playgrounds. And while children and young people do not have to physically distance in school, it is advisable to avoid crowding in common areas, and to maintain physical distancing outside the school, including in public transport, shops and play parks. The standard Test and Protect procedures apply to close contacts of any confirmed cases in school, so doing what we can to support physical distancing will reduce potential exclusions should any cases occur.

The letter is an attempt to remind parents and carers that they have a key role in stopping the spread of COVID-19, thereby ensuring that the school can remain open. We have also designed a simple poster that can be used at school gates. You may prefer to use your own posters and/or involve children and young people in creating designs.

We would be grateful if you could kindly distribute the letter to parents and carers, and thank you again for your ongoing support in tackling COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Professor Alison McCallum
Director of Public Health and Health Policy



Headquarters
Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

Interim Chair Esther Robertson
Interim Chief Executive Calum Campbell

Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board