Salford City Council

19th November 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

Call to Action for Parents and Carers in Salford

The last nine months have been hard for us all with the constant restrictions and disruption caused by Covid. Our schools continue to adapt, doing the best they can to keep all children, staff and visitors safe. We recognise that parents and carers have also made many changes to their lives during the pandemic and we would like to thank you for this support.

Unfortunately, as the number of people with Covid infection has increased, so has the number of children and staff who have had to self-isolate, missing valuable days in education and causing childcare difficulties for some of you. When schools get a notification of a positive test result for either a pupil or a staff member, they follow detailed Public Health advice to ensure the right 'contacts' are advised that they need to self- isolate and leave the school premises immediately. Usually in a primary and special schools/setting context, all children/staff in the 'bubble' will be classed as a close contact.

Schools and the Council have been working hard to reduce the risks, to manage cases and understand the pattern of infection across our population. Please work in partnership and trust school staff as they are working extremely hard to follow all the latest guidance to ensure all of our schools continue to be as safe as possible. However, actions taken by schools can only stop some of the cases. We do need families and communities to help us bring the local infection rate down and protect our children's health and education.

We all know that ensuring our children get the education they deserve is important for their health and wellbeing, as well as their futures. We also need to protect our vulnerable families and friends. The best way to do this is to reduce the number of people we see, because this way we are less likely to catch the infection or pass it on.

So during this half term, we need your help. We are asking for your support in the following ways:

- If someone in your household has Covid symptoms and is waiting to be tested or for test results, **all household members must self-isolate until the results are known**. Do not send children into school or go into work yourself until the test result is known. If the result is positive, the positive person isolates for 10 days and all household members must self-isolate for 14 days. A table is attached below to show the isolation periods. Also, if your child tests positive at the end of term do not forget to let the school or nursery know.

- If you or your child test positive, **you should let your contacts know straight away** without waiting for public health or the national test and trace system to get in touch. A checklist is attached below that will be handy for you to list your contacts. There are many illnesses that can give rise to concern. Please contact your GP or NHS111 if you are worried; or call 999 if seriously unwell.

- **If you are a contact, you have to self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact with the case.** It does not matter whether you have a test and you are negative, you must still self-isolate. If your child has been sent home from school as a contact, they must not leave the house or garden or see friends during this period. Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate if a child has been sent home from school, but they should avoid contact with the child as far as possible and follow advice on hygiene. If one of the household develop

symptoms, they must isolate and book a test. This will stop other people getting the infection if you or your child are developing the infection.

- **Do not have visitors into your home and do not visit others in their home.** We appreciate this is difficult especially when there have been life events; deaths, births or celebrations but this is so important to reducing the risk. Under current legal restrictions this is also illegal, and you may be fined.

  We have seen situations in a number of schools where children have had parties or sleepovers at home, and someone attending later became unwell. As they were infectious at the time of the party, several children have become infected too.

  Please talk to your children about the risks of socialising with their friends at this time.

- **Reduce mixing of different households or families outside of the home too.** Mixing with others will increase the risk of developing the infection. Please celebrate any events with your own household members only.

- **Follow school protocols and maintain social distancing when dropping off and collecting your children from school.** Please adhere to times to arranged by the school and leave the school area promptly to help reduce the risk of infection. Walking or cycling is encouraged. Parents should not gather in groups at school gates or go on site without an appointment. We know it is tempting to have a catch up with other parents but you may infect another household and affect class bubbles if you do not follow these guidelines.

- Please follow the National guidance, **Wear a Face Covering, Wash Your Hands regularly and Maintain Social Distancing.** All these actions reduce the spread of the infection. Every small change you make can have a huge impact.

You may see our Health Improvement staff outside your school or in the community at some point over the next few months. They are there to answer any questions you may have about the Covid Restrictions, and will provide parents/carers with face coverings and hand sanitiser and will do this work safely in a socially distanced manner.

We understand that children having to stay at home, or even whole households, is not easy or ideal, but we are asking for your continued support so that we can together stop the spread of Covid, keep our children and families safe and keep our schools open for the majority of children.

Yours faithfully,

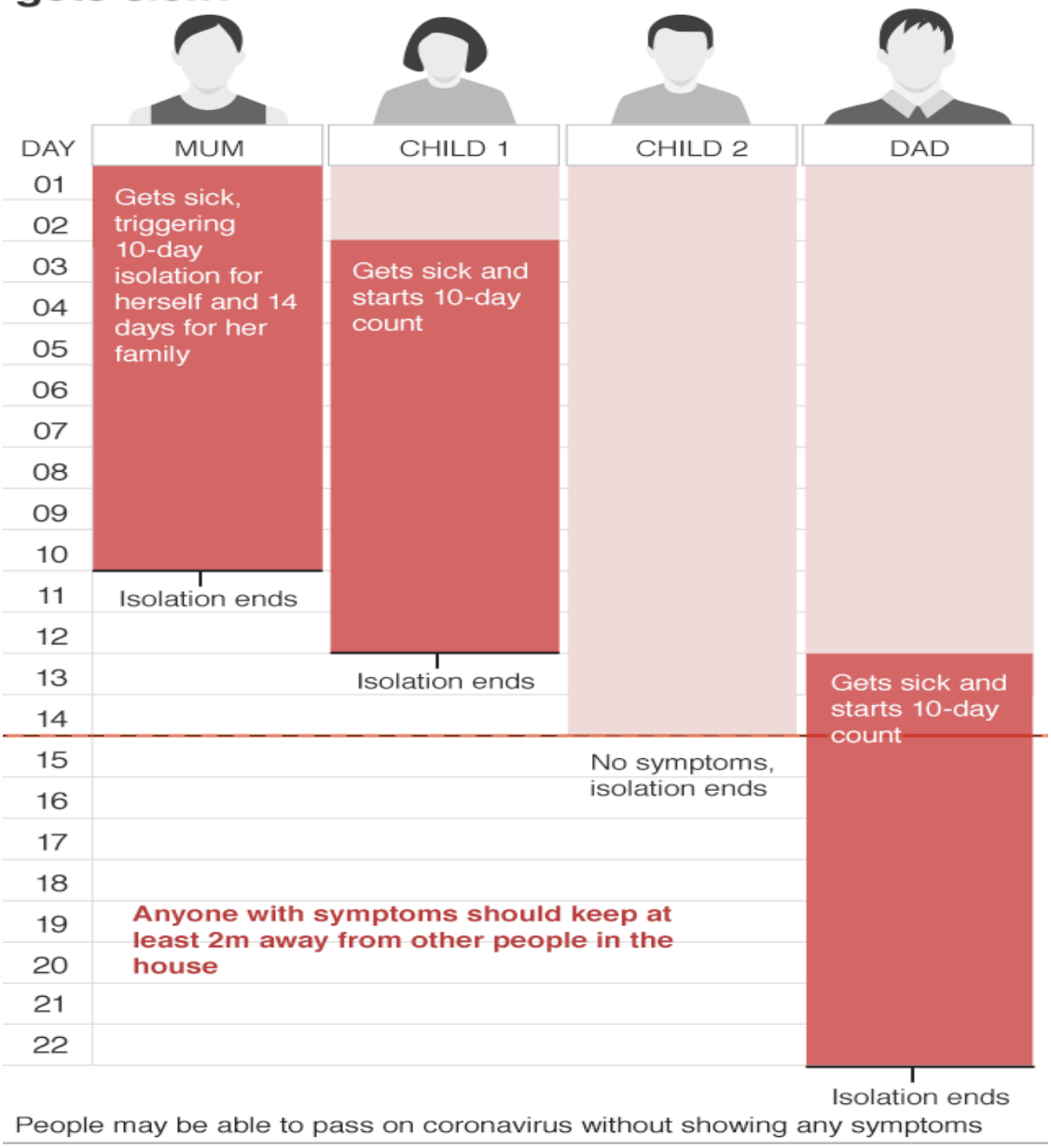
Charlotte Ramsden
Strategic Director, People

Muna Abdel Aziz
Director pf Public Health

Councillor John Merry
Deputy City Mayor & Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services

Councillor John Walsh
Executive Support Member for Education and Learning

What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



People may be able to pass on coronavirus without showing any symptoms

Questions you will be asked about your contacts if you test positive

While you are waiting for the test result, you can start to record your contacts below just in case the test result comes back positive. Please answer the following questions and you can ask someone to help.

Your symptoms started on: …… (or date of test if you don't have symptoms)

Two days before that date is from this date …… to today. This is the start of the period when you can pass the virus on to others.

In the last 2 days before your symptoms started (or from the date of your test) up to today, try to remember what you did and who you met:

SCHOOL/WORKPLACE/HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

- Where do you work or study? Do you have bubble arrangements with people who need to isolate?
- Have you been within 2m for 15 minutes or 1m for 1 minute or face to face conversation with anyone in your workplace or school (e.g. reception, cleaners, teacher, nurse etc)?
- Have you been looked after by a healthcare professional or a carer or care worker who was not wearing their PPE mask and gloves?

You must let your manager and/or the head teacher know so they can help identify the contacts in that setting who must self-isolate for 14 days.

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

- Who do you live with at home in the same household where you are sharing a kitchen and or a bathroom?
- Do you have a household or childcare support bubble with other people at a different address?
- Do you have any other bubbles or care arrangements?

These are your household contacts – you should let them know straight away that they must isolate for 14 days (if they are not already isolating). They should also let their work and/or school know.

SOCIAL CONTACTS

- Did you share travel in a closed vehicle with anyone in that time?
- Did you go shopping in that time or to pick up a prescription or food?
- Did you go out anywhere socially? Who did you meet with?
- Have you been within 2m for 15 minutes or 1m for 1 minute or face to face conversation with anyone in that time? Especially think of neighbours, friends, relatives, older people and/or those with a health condition.

These are your social contacts. They should all self-isolate for 14 days watching for symptoms If it was a restaurant or hairdresser or other business, please call them to let them know you have tested positive.

If your test result comes back positive, you should enter your contact details on the NHS Test and Trace online portal or you can call 119 and they will help you get in touch with people who have been your contacts. https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/

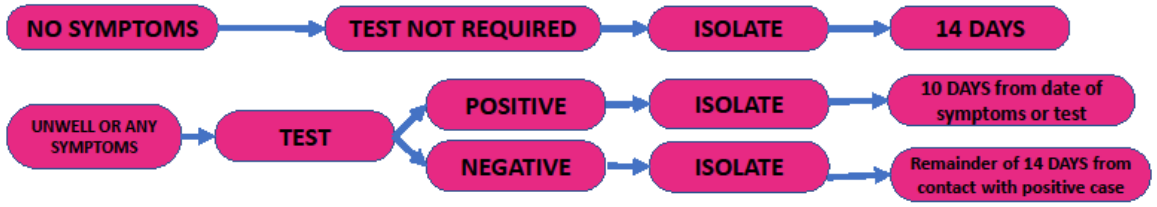
Reducing Transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Sustainable Prevention:

Public Health Salford

If you develop symptoms – ▪ A new continuous cough ▪ A high temperature (fever) ▪ A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell; isolate immediately and get a free test by visiting; www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119 (free from UK landlines and mobiles)

Contact with positive coronavirus case



Please note: Contacts of contacts do not need to self isolate, unless they come into contact with a positive case.