



Dear Parent/Carer

The summer holidays are coming but coronavirus has not gone away

The summer holidays are fast approaching, which will hopefully mean warm weather to brighten what has been one of the most testing times in all of our lives, during the COVID-19 national health emergency.

Firstly, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for all that you have been doing to keep you and your family safe. Your efforts and your determination to do the right things have really helped control the spread of Coronavirus.

I know that it won't have been easy for many parents/carers juggling work, childcare and education at home. I expect your child has found it difficult being away from school and their friends, while having to change their routines.

You will no doubt have seen that restrictions are being eased and this, of course, is very welcome, but it's really important to remember that the virus has not gone away.

Indeed, it's invisible in some cases, with some people showing no symptoms, so this still means that anyone can get it, and anyone can spread it.

The data about the number of COVID-19 cases is showing that the rates are still particularly high in Bedford and Luton at this time.

Therefore, I am urging you to keep doing what you've been doing and please do carry on with the measures that have been working so far.

I recognise that this will be challenging, especially over the summer holidays, but limiting contact with others and regular hand washing have been proven to work. So, I would still urge you to stay at home as much as possible, when you do go out maintain social distancing, and wear a face mask where social distancing may not be possible.

And if you or any of your family/household do start to display symptoms – a high temperature, a new persistent cough, or the loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – then ensure you, anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, self-isolate for 14 days, and get tested. This can be done online via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. This should be done within three days of when symptoms start.

Once again, let me say thank you for your efforts during this health emergency. I hope you enjoy the summer break and with your help in continuing to follow the right advice, we can keep this virus under control.

Your sincerely,

Muriel Scott,
Director of Public Health for Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Milton Keynes