

5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Students – please read and email us if your child falls under this category (info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk)

Guidance has been released yesterday that all students who are classed as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ will need to self-isolate from today, 5th November 2020, until the 2nd December 2020 due to further national restrictions.

According to the guidance, more evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. The advice encourages families to speak to their GP or specialist clinician, if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place. Phoenix will provide work on Teams so that your child will be able to continue their education at home.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

If you are not sure if your child is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, please contact your GP or specialist clinician as soon as possible.

Whilst a list specific to children does not exist, as a guide I’ve included below the adult conditions that are automatically classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (taken from government guidance):

- solid organ transplant recipients
- those with specific cancers:
 - o people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - o people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - o people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - o people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - o people having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - o people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs

- those with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- those with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell disease)
- those 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 decisions.

If you believe your child falls under the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' category, please email us as soon as possible on our COVID email address:

info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk

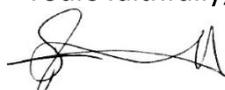
Following receipt of your email, we will cross reference this with our school medical records to ensure that no student has been omitted from the information we have.

If we do not hear from you and your child is in school, but we believe that they are clinically extremely vulnerable from our records, we will contact you.

I thank you in advance for your support in helping us keep our community safe.

At the time of writing, further guidance that may affect the wider school population has not yet been released. When I receive further information, I will endeavour to let families know of any updates as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Smith
Head teacher