

# Schools Information Alert

## COVID-19 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today marks the start of the Autumn Term, although in Norfolk most schools are starting on Thursday with pupils and students returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. I do hope that despite the considerable focus on education, particularly in the national press around results day you have been able to have a break. Updates to the guidance at the end of last week and requests for daily status updates to the DfE suggest that we will need all our energies to retain a focus on children's well-being and their learning. We will continue to provide these alerts, initially probably twice a week to draw your attention to key guidance and local information. You will be aware that [guidance](#) has issued/updated regarding face coverings in schools. Norfolk is not an area on the national watch list as of last week's statistical release, so face coverings during the school day are the discretion of individual head teachers as described in the guidance.

The additional items in today's alert include:

1. **Back to school campaign**
2. **Health & Safety updates**
3. **Banham Poultry Outbreak**

### 1. **Back to School campaign**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August Norfolk County Council launched a campaign – Let's Get Back to School – to encourage parents to support their children's return to school, following nearly six months of partial school closures.

There is a new webpage [www.norfolk.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/backtoschool) with lots of useful information and advice for parents.

It includes information on school transport; test and trace; attendance; starting school and emotional well-being and transition support.

The Norfolk Safeguarding children partnership have also created a return to school video

#### **'Return to School' Video - #RTSnorfolk**

The Norfolk 'Return to School' video has just been released! The locally created film has been designed with young people to answer their specific questions, worries and concerns about



returning to school. With the help of local teachers and Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership, the video gives practical, honest advice in a colourful and easy to understand format. The video is available online: [www.JustOneNorfolk.nhs.uk/return-to-school](http://www.JustOneNorfolk.nhs.uk/return-to-school)

The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership is encouraging schools to help promote the video and wider set of online resources available on Just One Norfolk. A resource pack is available that includes template newsletter messages to parents, social media posts, mini animations, posters and much more. To download this pack now use this link [www.bit.ly/rtsnorfolk-resources](http://www.bit.ly/rtsnorfolk-resources)

## 2. Health & Safety updates

Several health and safety documents have been updated following government updates to their guidance including: A number of [health and safety documents have been updated](#) following government updates to their guidance including:

- **Educational settings compliance code and risk assessment:** changes to guidance on music and drama, the use of face coverings and supervised tooth brushing in primary and nursery settings. In addition, clarification is given regarding the use of contractors on site and controls for rooms without fresh air ventilation. The compliance code has also been updated to include information relating to hiring out parts of the setting to external organisations and clubs.
- **Hire and third-party use risk assessment and declaration form:** These are new documents to compliment the additional information relating to this area in the compliance code
- **Communicating arrangements with parents' letter:** updated to reflect new guidance on face coverings
- **Management of cases guidance:** updated to reflect the creation of the Norfolk Outbreak Management Team that replaces the Education Incident room from 1<sup>st</sup> September and to reflect new government guidance on the distribution and use of home test kits to schools.
- **Your health and your safety while working in educational establishments:** information on face coverings removed from this document and moved to the compliance code
- Changes have been made to the **new and expectant mothers guidance** in relation to the measures that are appropriate for staff at or beyond 28 weeks gestation
- **The e-learning module** has been updated to reflect a full return to settings and the risk controls in place.

## 3. Banham Poultry Outbreak

You will have heard that we have experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 in a Norfolk food processing plant. The number of positive cases has risen to 104 out of 796 tested. There are clear procedures in place for families to self-isolate and for those who have tested positive.

Public Health for Norfolk are continuing to work with Public Health England, the NHS and District Councils following an outbreak of coronavirus at Banham Poultry in Attleborough.

There are daily updates on the outbreak where you can access for the most up to date information. These are currently updated by 4pm each day. The following is the most recent press release. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/08/banham-poultry-update-31-august-2020>



The workforce from Banham reside across the county, the staff will need to complete 14 days of isolation for the whole household, even if they tested negative. If there are any additional actions schools needs to take, they will be directly contacted by the community response team. All local systems for contact tracing are in operation and are working successfully. At this point in time there is no intention to take further action and to instigate any local or wider lockdowns.

Prevention measures remain the focus. The advice to people concerned about contracting the virus is to remember the basics. Continuing to wash hands regularly and practising social distancing is the best way to protect. If people are unwell, even if the symptoms are mild, they should isolate with their household and get a test.

The Infection rate in Norfolk remains low and you can contact the Local Outbreak Management Centre (The revised system for the Education Incident Room (EIR) which migrated today) for any additional guidance through the new telephone number 01603 223219 and email address [phnorfolkcomc@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:phnorfolkcomc@norfolk.gov.uk).

There is also some additional support available you can offer to families who may make contact with you.

***For families with children including those aged 0-5***

Schools can link the families remotely and provide doorstep resources (materials for children) if needed with the Early Childhood and Family Service, which works across Norfolk. Support can be requested by contacting the main Norfolk CSC on 0344 800 8020.

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme is also available via 01603 223392 (option 5) to support with funding, food and advice.

***For families needing advice and support***

Families can call the main Norfolk CSC on 0344 800 8020 and they will then be linked to the right service including colleagues with partner and community focus.

Schools can email for additional support and advice they need relating to these families e.g. connecting with other services using the below:

**Norwich City:** [cspartnercommunitynorwich@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitynorwich@norfolk.gov.uk)

**South Norfolk:** [cspartnercommunitysouth@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitysouth@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Broadland:** [cspartnercommunitybroadland@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitybroadland@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Breckland:** [cspartnercommunitybreckland@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitybreckland@norfolk.gov.uk)

**West Norfolk:** [cspartnercommunitywest@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitywest@norfolk.gov.uk)

**North Norfolk:** [cspartnercommunitynorth@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunitynorth@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Great Yarmouth:** [cspartnercommunityeast@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:cspartnercommunityeast@norfolk.gov.uk)

If the school has safeguarding concerns about a child they should follow the normal system and contact CADS on 0344 800 8021.

Yours

Chris

**Chris Snudden**

**Director of Learning and Inclusion, Norfolk Children's Services**

**Norfolk County Council**