
9 July 2021

Dear West Sussex parents and carers,

You will no doubt be aware that the Prime Minister has set Monday 19 July as the date when he anticipates all Covid-19 restrictions to be lifted. This is due to be confirmed on Monday 12 July.

The move to step four of the roadmap out of lockdown will place a greater emphasis on personal responsibility as we continue to protect each other, reduce the risks of the virus, and learn to live with Covid-19 for the longer term.

It is understandable that many people will welcome a return to life without restrictions, while for some the prospect will be a source of concern and anxiety.

Since the start of the academic year, your school has had in place a range of measures designed to protect against the spread of Covid-19, including extra cleaning and grouping students into 'bubbles' etc.

While many pupils may have finished the school year before 19 July, the end of term date in West Sussex is Friday, 23 July and some schools will therefore still be open until this date.

For these five remaining days of term, West Sussex County Council is recommending to schools that they keep in place their Covid-19 health protection measures. We appreciate that, in maintaining protective measures until 23 July, your school may not be able to host certain events in the usual way, such as sports days or face to face transition days.

However, we are mindful that staff and students may still be contacted by NHS Test and Trace until 16 August and asked to self-isolate as a close contact. By keeping the measures in place until the end of term we hope that the impact on families will be kept to a minimum.

We ask that you continue to support your school in taking whatever measures they feel are needed to manage and reduce the risks to all.

Infection rates in West Sussex remain lower than in many parts of the country, though they have been steadily rising in line with national trends. [Our message to communities across West Sussex](#) is that Covid-19 hasn't gone away, that the pandemic is not yet over and that there are measures we can all continue to take to keep each other safe. You can find more information about the pandemic in West Sussex, including local case data, on our website www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus

From September, the restrictions in schools nationally will be replaced with new guidance, and we will update you on this in good time.

Thank you again for supporting your school and your local community by taking all possible steps to prevent the spread of the virus.

Until restrictions are lifted nationally, please continue to follow the guidance, especially washing hands, giving each other space, wearing face coverings where appropriate and letting in fresh air.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wagstaff

Director of Education & Skills