

# CHOWBENT PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents,

As you know at school we have introduced a wide range of measures to keep the school covid-free. Our aim is to;

- Protect the children from covid and the disruption caused to their education by having to self-isolate for 14 days at home when they have come into contact with a positive case.
- Protect the school staff who despite the country being in a national lockdown are not able to reduce the risk to themselves by maintaining social distancing in a class of up to 30 children.
- Protect parents, including vulnerable and elderly relatives from coming into contact with covid through contacts in school.

The number of schools effected by covid cases is rising. Despite the risks to themselves being lower, children can catch covid and can pass it on to others.

If a positive case occurs in school, the expected outcome is that the whole year group associated with that case will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. This not only disrupts the children but also their parents who may be working and will need to seek time off work, or lead to more vulnerable elderly relatives being drafted in to help with childcare.

It is essential that everyone follows the Government's guidance to reduce the risk.

I am writing again as it is clear that still not every parent is playing their part. Since September we have experienced –

- Multiple cases of children being sent in to school who had been displaying one or more of the three main covid symptoms the night before.
- Children sent home to self-isolate being seen out on the streets.
- Children being sent to school despite the fact that their parents were displaying one or more of the three main covid symptoms.
- Several cases of children being sent to school despite a member of their household awaiting the result of a covid test.

Every time these things happen the risk of school closure increases. We do understand that some parents may not see the risk as high or think that they 'probably don't have covid' so its not worth keeping their child off school. However it is often the case that where there has been covid within schools it is because someone somewhere has not taken the risk seriously and chanced their luck.

We do not wish to cause worry and distress but we do urge all parents to not under-estimate covid and its impact. At the very least the disruption caused to working families by having to send a bubble home to isolate should be kept in mind. In several local schools the same year group bubble has ended up being sent home for 14 days of isolation more than once since September causing major problems to families around childcare.





I would also urge parents to consider the dedicated school staff who are putting themselves on the front line during this national lockdown. We have already one member of staff who has suffered several weeks of covid illness after coming into contact with a case in school.

The current situation in Wigan.

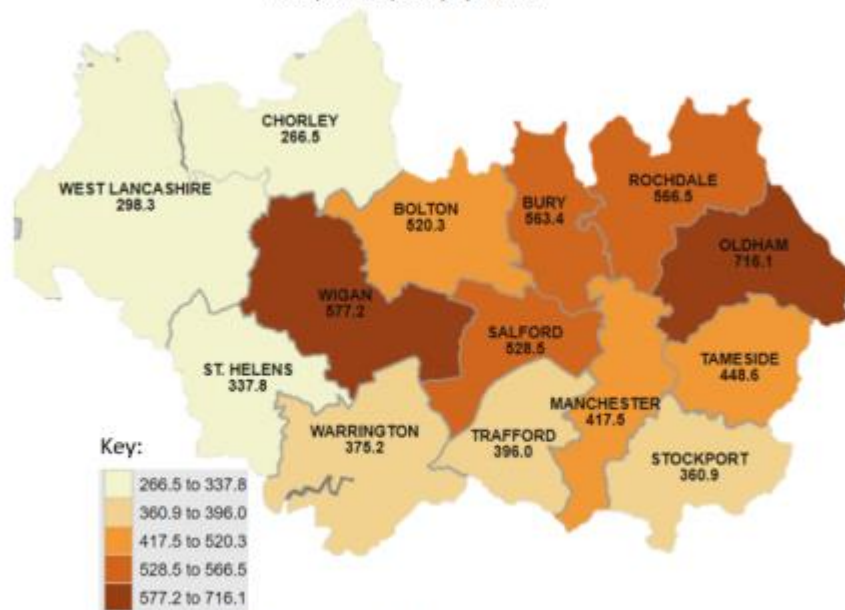
Weekly Cases by Ward. Douglas had the highest number of cases for the latest week (100), followed by Atherton (99)

Atherton: the current case rate is 632 per 100,000 pop. This is one of the highest in the Greater Manchester area.

New Cases in the 7 days 31st October – 6th November, Wigan had 1897 new cases identified, a rate of 577.2 per 100,000 population and the second highest rate of new cases in Greater Manchester.

Wigan currently has one of the highest rates per 100,000 of its population in England.

**New Cases in Latest 7 Days\* Greater Manchester and Wigan Neighbours**  
Rate per 100,000 population



\*Latest 7 days covers 31st October - 6th November  
Please note - latest days' data may change due to reporting delays





Please follow the guidance and play your part in keeping everyone safe.

The rules are-

**The three main symptoms of covid which you and we must act upon are one or more of the following -**

- A new persistent dry cough
- A temperature
- A loss of sense of taste or smell

**If anyone in your household or extended household bubble has any of these symptoms, they will need to seek a covid test. As a household you must -**

- Not send your child to school until the results of that test are known
- Isolate at home until the test result is known and then follow track and trace advice.

**If your child displays one or more of these symptoms, they must not be sent to school and must seek a covid test.**

**If your child displays one or more of these symptoms in school we will isolate them and contact you to collect them (and any household siblings) and ask you to arrange for a covid test for the child with symptoms.**

**Parents on the school site must -**

- Follow the one way system
- Keep a safe distance from other parents
- Not allow their child to mingle with other children from different class bubbles
- Not engage with prolonged conversations with staff at classroom doors. Contact can be made via class dojo messaging or by phoning the school office.

If in any doubt about what to do, please contact the school office and we will advise you.

A huge thank you to the vast majority of parents who are following the rules and helping keep the children, staff and families safe.

Regards,

J.Randle

