



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Urgent Action Required: New guidance on the children of key workers essential to the coronavirus response

Overnight, the government has published an extended list of workers who are considered key workers essential for the response to the coronavirus. Schools are required to provide provision for these children if their families are unable to care for them safely at home.

I am therefore writing to you to ask you to urgently take the following actions:

1. Check the extended list of key workers essential to the coronavirus response to see if your occupation is covered.
2. If you are on this list, read the information about 'Should I send my child into school next week?'
3. If one or more carer in your family is one of those key workers, complete our survey found at this [link](#) so that we know which days your child will need to come to school between 10am and 2pm. **Please complete this survey by 7pm this evening so that we can finalise our staffing requirements. If you miss this deadline, please email me directly at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk over the weekend with a phone number to reach you on and key details so that I can contact you if required.**

1. The extended list of key workers essential to the coronavirus response is as follows:

If you are an employee in any of the below occupations and your employer has confirmed that based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of their essential public service.

Health and social care - This includes but is not limited to:

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| Doctors | Nurses | Midwives |
| Paramedics | Social workers | Care workers |
| Other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers | | |
| Those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment | | |

Education and childcare

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| Nursery and teaching staff | Social workers | Specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach. |
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Key public services



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| Those essential to the running of the justice system | Religious staff | Charities and workers delivering key frontline services |
| Those responsible for the management of the deceased | Journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting | |

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the **effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services** such as the **payment of benefits**, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in:

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| Food production | Food processing | Food distribution |
| Food sale and delivery | Those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines) | |

Public safety and national security

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| Police and support staff | Ministry of Defence civilians | Contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic) |
| Fire and rescue service employees (including support staff) | National Crime Agency staff, including those maintaining border security | Prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas |

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

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| Staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure) | The oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage) | Postal services and delivery |
| The information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to | | Payments providers |



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| network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services) |
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| Waste disposal sectors |
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2. **One or more parent or carer in our family is a key worker on the list above, should I send my child into school next week?**

Whilst scientific evidence suggests that schools remain safe settings, if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The government has given clear guidance on social-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. All families are expected to follow these guidelines. Continued educational provision is for vulnerable students and situations where children cannot safely stay at home because their parent or carer is at work in one of the above occupations.

The government has asked for families where a parent or carer is an essential key worker to follow these principles:

- a. If you are able to ensure that your child is kept safely at home, your child should be kept at home.
- b. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- c. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

You must also continue to follow the instructions issued by Public Health England in relation to the coronavirus. **Any student who is showing symptoms of either a new persistent cough or a temperature should stay at home. The guidance currently says that they should self-isolate along with all members of their household.** This advice can be found at this link and you should check this advice on a daily basis for further updates:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

3. **Survey completion for families where one or more carer is a key worker:**

Having now read this guidance, if one or more parent or carer in your family is an identified essential key worker, please complete the survey at this [link by 7pm on Friday 20th March](#). If you miss this deadline, please email Ms Gostling directly at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk over the weekend and we will contact you. **Please complete this survey even if:**

- **You completed the initial key worker survey yesterday (as the guidance has changed overnight)**



- You do not intend to send your child into school next week (this is so we have full details of the number of students in our children of key worker cohort so that we can make contingency plans for our longer term provision)**

If you have any questions over the next 72 hours, please use the contact details below. We will update our contacts list next week if this changes and send it to you:

| My query | Who should I contact and how? |
|--|---|
| General questions about the school closure and curriculum provision | Please email updates@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk |
| Specific questions about provision next week on site for vulnerable students and key worker children | Key worker children: Ms Gostling (Deputy Headteacher) d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk Vulnerable students: Ms Quartey (Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead) e.quartey@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk |
| Query about password reset or log in to a student's school email system | passwordreset@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk |

We are very grateful to you for your understanding as we seek to maintain our support for our vulnerable students and the families of essential key workers. Your flexibility is very much appreciated by all of our staff.

As always throughout this very difficult time, our staff team send our very best wishes to all families in the Sydenham School community and would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to manage this ever changing situation. Your ongoing feedback, input and kind messages of support are very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Gostling
Deputy Headteacher