

# Prior Park College

**A document in response to  
Frequently Asked Questions  
regarding COVID-19  
and Prior Park College**

**August 2020**

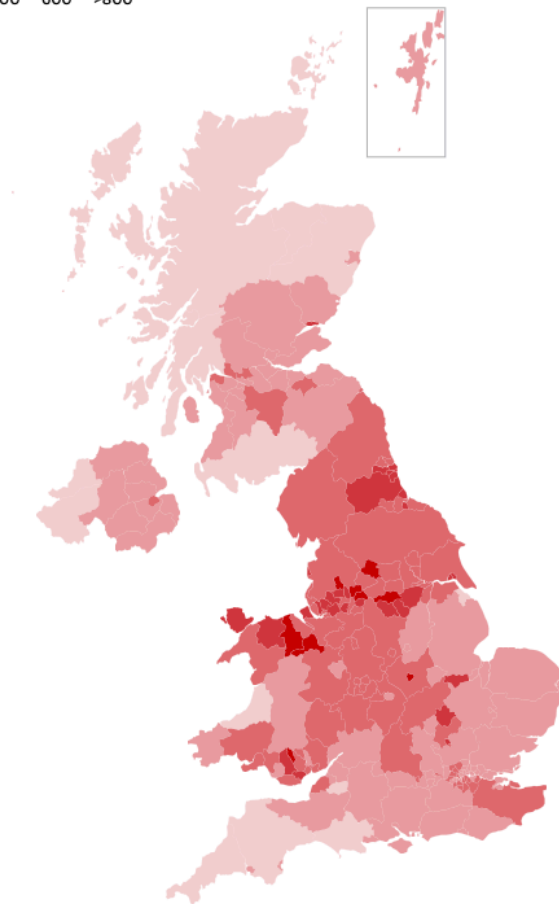
# Health and Safety

## How many confirmed cases of COVID-19 are there in the UK?

See below UK government data displaying the total number of cases region by region.

### Cases per 100k population

By local authority, Great Britain  
<200 200 400 600 >800



Map showing number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases across the UK, dated 31 July 2020

Cases data from Public Health England at 17:07 BST 31 Jul 2020. Population data are the latest ONS mid-year estimates.

Dumfries and Galloway	274	184.1
Aberdeenshire	477	182.6
Bath and North East Somerset	349	181.7
Dorset	617	163.9
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	928	163.3
Devon	1,240	155.9

Figure 2 shows Cases by local area and Per 100k. These figures come from data published by Public Health England. Bath has a very low infection rate when compared to other places in the UK.

### **Will the Prior Park campus be open in September?**

The School is expecting the campus to be open on Sunday 6 September for boarders to arrive ready for the start of term on Monday 7 September. The UK Government has indicated that schools will be one of the first sectors to open as restrictions are eased and this is already happening gradually in June.

### **Will there be a quarantine period for International students?**

Current indications are that there will be a 14-day quarantine period for arrivals in the UK and we have robust plans around implementing this with the child's wellbeing at the foremost of our plans.

### **How will quarantine work?**

We are planning to enable international students to spend the 14-day quarantine period in school with arrivals from **Monday 17 August**. Details have been sent to boarding parents and please contact Vicki Quinn - [vquinn@priorparkschools.com](mailto:vquinn@priorparkschools.com) - should you wish to book your child a place.

### **How will students get from the airport to Prior Park?**

We will arrange to meet students arriving at the airport and transport them safely to Prior Park.

### **Do students have to go to a guardian for the September Exeat weekend or October Half Term?**

Prior Park will allow students to remain at school throughout all the weekends and half term during the Michaelmas term so there is no requirement to travel to stay with a host family during term. Having a UK based guardian, preferably within an hour of the school, is good practice and will be required.

### **Will there be testing for Covid-19 available?**

We believe new testing methods for the virus will be available by September that will allow for regular tests to occur for the whole Prior Park community. The closest testing centre is at Bristol Airport, 30 minutes from Prior Park.

### **Will there be regular temperature checks?**

Yes, daily checking of temperatures will be available through our Health & Wellbeing Centre.

### **How will social distancing work?**

Guidelines for social distancing in school will be provided at the start of term and we will follow Government advice regarding spacing for indoor areas such as classrooms and other buildings on campus. We will ensure all students are briefed before arrival and reminded throughout the day as to the requirements.

What social distancing measures will be put in place if the school goes back in September?

We will be following and implementing Government Guidance on protective measures in educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

This includes a hierarchy of controls:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the school.
- Ensure a strict hygiene regime for students and staff that includes regular hand washing and the use of alcohol hand rub or sanitiser.
- Provide a strong educational message across the school for good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- A managed premises regime that includes the regular cleaning of all spaces and especially the cleaning of all frequently touched surfaces.
- Minimise contact and mixing between students and staff by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout), class sizes and timetables (such as staggered break times), including “bubble” groups to reduce the possible risk of contact and transmission across the school community.

### **Will hand sanitisers be provided and regular hand washing encouraged?**

Yes, hand sanitisers will be available in every building and public areas and their use will be promoted at all opportunities, as will regular hand washing and other good hygiene measures.

### **Will there be regular cleaning and sanitising of communal areas?**

On top of the regular cleaning of the School, communal and public areas will be disinfected throughout the day. The dining hall, bathrooms and boarding houses will be thoroughly sanitised at regular intervals.

### **How will you adapt boarding houses to ensure hygiene standards can be maintained?**

For any school, having a large number of people together in a boarding house provides challenges. At Prior Park we will follow the guidance of the Department

for Education, Independent Schools Inspectorate and Boarding Schools Association to ensure we meet the required standards of hygiene and safety in a boarding school.

At present such advice is not in circulation, but we are already considering the best approaches to take and we will be in a position to provide parents and prospective parents with more information over the coming weeks.

**Will students be required to wear masks during school-time? Will there be sufficient access to hand sanitiser within the school?**

We will follow Government advice. However, those students and staff who wish to wear masks will be able to.

**If a student becomes ill with Covid-19 where will they go?** We will arrange the nursing and medical care for any student who becomes ill in a separate facility and ensure through track and trace that we isolate any possible outbreak as swiftly as possible and in line with the latest guidance.

**What plans do you have in place if students are required to self-isolate when arriving in September?**

If the Government requires a quarantine system for people flying into the UK, and this affects many of our students, Prior Park will then implement a quarantine system for anyone flying into the UK in August and September.

However, as of yet, the dates and affected countries have not been confirmed. If this does affect your child when they wish to start or return to Prior Park then we will provide this service at the school and allow borders to stay in houses, supervised by boarding staff, ahead of the beginning of the term. We will, of course, provide you with more information of this provision if it becomes necessary.

Prior Park has no Exeat weekends throughout the school year and are planning to have the boarding house open during the Michaelmas half-term giving all overseas boarders the option to remain on site.

**What medical care can we expect for our child as a boarder at Prior Park?**

All boarders will be covered by the UK's free National Health Service (NHS) and all borders at Prior Park are registered with the local GP's surgery. The doctor will regularly visit the school and can refer students to a specialist service if necessary.

On site Prior has an excellent Health and Wellbeing Centre made up of medical nurses and a school counsellor. All medication and treatment plans are administered by the Health and Wellbeing Centre which will also coordinate visits to the local surgery and hospital. An optional private medical insurance plan can also be arranged by the school.

As the data shows above, Bath and the South West have the lowest number of cases in England so the likelihood of contracting the virus based on these statistics is significantly low.

### **What will happen if schools are required to close in the next academic year due to another outbreak of Covid-19 in the UK?**

In this situation we will ensure that our boarders remain in school, under the care of boarding staff and will full access to Medical provision, until they can return home or to their guardians. If schools are required to close again, we will implement our Remote Learning Policy and ensure students' academic progress is maintained.

### **Will there be remote teaching if a student cannot get back to Prior Park for the beginning of term?**

We recognise that some students may have difficulties returning for the start of term. In most cases this will be due to travel restrictions or a lack of available flights. In these cases we will continue to provide remote teaching for students. We will be able to give students access to a live or recorded video stream that will aim to capture the lesson their classmates are attending but not every activity will be possible to undertake remotely. This will be delivered through Microsoft Teams.

It's important to stress that this will be a short-term measure until students can return to Prior Park.

## **Financial**

### **What will happen to my deposit if schools cannot open in September?**

- a) In the unlikely event that the school cannot open in September all overseas students will have the option to continue or start our established remote learning programme. The fees for both day students and boarders will be at a discounted rate of 85% of the day fee. **Please note there will be no increase in our fees from September 2020, they will remain at the current rate although they may need to be reviewed for January 2021.**
- b) An alternative option would be to defer entry, either until such time that the school can open this academic year e.g. January 2021 or until September 2021 if this is feasible. In this case we would still hold the deposit in order to keep the place available.
- c) If neither of the above are suitable options, Prior Park is keen to be as flexible as possible. If governments do not permit travel to UK Schools, we would refund the deposit paid and the family would not be liable for fees. Please refer to the question below regarding our current notice period.

### **What will the school's notice period be if parents decide they do not want to send their child to the school as a result of the current circumstances?**

To enable the school to plan for September, we do need to have a notice date in place, however this is subject to change depending on the government's announcements over the coming weeks. Currently we are asking for notice by 30 June 2020. We would welcome any individual discussions about this and are continuously reviewing as we appreciate the uncertainty of this period.

### **Can I defer to 2021 entry?**

Parents considering deferring their place should contact Vicki Quinn to discuss. For any student not able to arrive in the UK in September we will be able to provide some form of remote learning and, therefore, deferment is not necessary.

### **Will Visas be processed on time?**

We are following advice from the Government. We will be writing to you shortly with information regarding the documents that we will require to enable us to issue Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) Certificates. On receipt of the CAS you can make an application to a UK Embassy from 1 June to apply for a Tier 4 Child Visa. Embassies may not be open from 1 June due to Covid-19 restrictions, so there might be a delay, but indications are that they will process visas as soon as they are able.

## **Remote Learning**

### **What is Prior Park's contingency plan for teaching if the school is unable to open in September?**

Prior Park's Remote Learning Programme has been in place since 23 March 2020 when the UK went into lockdown. For the past year Prior Park have been using the platform 'Microsoft Teams', enabling students to access and complete homework assignments. Since the lockdown, our students have continued with their studies and remained part of the school community both academically and pastorally, which includes meeting their tutor, attending house assemblies as well as continuing with co-curricular activities. Our successful virtual school will continue for as long as we are unable to open physically, and all new boarders will have access to this remote learning come September.

From 11 May Prior Park welcomed all the new Year 10 and Year 12 international boarders due to join in September to our virtual school, they have all been assigned a buddy and have joined lessons in their chosen subjects and EAL lessons. We will be welcoming the new overseas students in the other year groups over the coming weeks as well.

### **Are Online Lessons recorded to watch back?**

Yes, all remote lessons are recorded for the students to watch back in their own time if they are unable to attend the live lessons due to the time difference. Students also have access to all resources and materials relevant to their subject that the teachers will provide.

**Please see link below to our Remote Learning Policy:**

<https://www.thepriorfoundation.com/resources/files/Remote-Learning-Policy.pdf>

## **Pastoral Care**

### **How will students be emotionally supported when they arrive in the UK?**

Prior Park offers an outstanding range of support for students. Each student will have a Housemaster or Housemistress and a Tutor. Their role is to ensure the students are given all necessary support to ensure they are happy at school and able to succeed at school.

If a student wishes to seek further support then they can speak with our Nurses in the Health and Wellbeing Centre, meet with our Lay Chaplain or Peer Mentors or, if necessary, book an appointment with a School Counsellor.

We will ensure all boarders are given a full induction into life at Prior Park and this will include opportunities to ask questions and speak about their concerns regarding Covid-19 and being away from home.

### **Will students be in trouble if they arrive late?**

We fully understand there are logistical difficulties around travel at present and that for some families their son/ daughter may be delayed; that will not be an issue at all and we will assist in any gaps in understanding that may arise. Students will be fully supported to integrate into the routines of school life on campus and they won't be alone in this.

### **How will the school ensure there is no bullying linked to Covid-19?**

Prior Park promotes kindness as a key value and we regularly speak to students about our 'culture of kindness'. We are a close community and we ask all members of the community to treat each other with respect. Like any school, we cannot say there is never unkindness at Prior Park. However, there are very few incidents of unkindness and bullying is rare.

Our pastoral systems and excellent staff ensure we quickly intervene if we have concerns about a student. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and treat any incident of bullying as a serious breach of our behaviour policy. First and



foremost, we will always provide the victim of unkindness with appropriate support as detailed above.

When students return to Prior, we will speak with them about behaviour linked to Covid-19. Any comments made to a student(s) about the origins of Covid-19 or any acts simulating the symptoms of virus (coughing and sneezing aimed at an individual or group of students) will lead to a serious sanction.

### **Will we have a chance to meet with our son or daughter's Housemaster / Housemistress before they arrive in September?**

For students joining Prior Park in September you will have recently received details of your son or daughter's House and the details of their Housemaster / Housemistress (HsMs).

Following the half-term break, HsMs will be in contact to introduce themselves. We will then arrange for later in the term, an opportunity for new parents and students to meet with HsMs on a Microsoft Teams video call.

We have a full induction process and our aim is for new students and parents to receive clear information on their House and to develop a positive relationship with their HsM.

## **Contact Info and Virtual Visits**

### **How should I contact the school?**

Please contact the registrar Vicki Quinn via email, phone or she is happy to set up a virtual meeting via Zoom or Teams.

[vquinn@priorparkschools.com](mailto:vquinn@priorparkschools.com)

Tel: +44 (0) 1225 831 000

### **How can I see the school virtually?**

The following link will take you to a short virtual introduction to Prior Park, giving a view of our beautiful location and includes a few words from our Headmaster and Head Girl.

<https://www.priorparkcollege.com/news-events/news/a-virtual-introduction-to-prior-park-college>

The link below is a 360 tour of areas of our girls and boys boarding houses.

<https://360imagephotography.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Prior+Park+College/index.htm>

If you would like to speak with the Headmaster, Head of Boarding or another key member of staff, please email our Admissions department:  
[admissions@priorparkschools.com](mailto:admissions@priorparkschools.com)

*Please note: This document will be updated as and when new Government advice is issued.*

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