Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Families,

On Wednesday 4 November, the government issued [new guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=4%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) relating to new Coronavirus restrictions now in force across England and as an organisation we have updated our position statement which you can read [here.](http://www.theriseschool.com/sites/default/files/policies/ambitious-about-autism-position-statement-on-the-return-to-school-and-college-for-November-2020.pdf)

I have prepared a [short video](https://youtu.be/N5xYD7512hQ) explaining the main changes we can expect during this second lockdown which can be watched here.

**Clinically Extremely Vulnerable:**

This includes new guidance about staff and children and young people identified as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ (CEV), which we are following in our setting.

The Government deems those with certain conditions as ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ and you can find a list of these conditions on this [webpage.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)

If your child was deemed clinically extremely vulnerable during the first lockdown, please seek advice from your GP or clinician about whether they should continue to attend school/college in person and advise us accordingly.

If your child or young person started with us in September, please do ring us and inform us if they are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable. To protect them they must stay at home, but we will support them with learning from home via our VLE.

**Clinically Vulnerable:**

The guidance also makes it clear that children who were previously clinically vulnerable (with conditions like diabetes or mild asthma for example) can continue to attend school.

Following the government guidance we have also identified staff members who are clinically extremely vulnerable who must also remain at home for the period of the lockdown.

We have also identified clinically vulnerable (CV) staff who will continue working in our setting with a robust risk assessment in place.

**Safe Staffing Levels:**

We want to be open and honest with you.  The Rise, like all other schools, may face staffing challenges going forward for several reasons. These include staff self-isolating due to being deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, staff isolating awaiting a Covid test because they are symptomatic, staff having to self-isolate through the track and trace system and normal winter sickness.

We will do everything in our power to ensure continuity of service for our pupils/learners. However, we must also risk assess on a daily basis to ensure we can operate safely. If the situation changes we will inform you at the earliest possible opportunity.

It remains a challenging year but we are committed to providing your child with a safe and secure education, while following guidance to protect the most vulnerable.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to get in touch,

Helen Ralston

Head of The Rise School