



Contact: Public Health  
Our ref: letter to parents/staff  
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Date: January 3 2021

Dear parent and staff member,

## **Returning to school and the Coronavirus position in Doncaster**

We are writing to you to outline the local position here in Doncaster, setting out our local rates and also news about school reopening next week.

We think it would be helpful to set out what the current position is in Doncaster.

Over the last two weeks and through the Christmas and New Year period, we have seen a small increase in the number of cases of Coronavirus.

The overall rates for Doncaster for the seven days ending the December 28 2020 is 240.5 infections per 100,000 people.

The rate for the 7 days ending December 15 2020 was 220.5 infections per 100,000 people and this contributed towards Doncaster remaining in Tier 3 or Very High in the Government's restriction levels.

It is useful to set out the infection rates in young people's age groups. The latest updated data is that on December 28 2020, these were:

- 0-4 years 72 infections per 100,000
- 5-9 years 61.6 infections per 100,000
- 10 -14 years 109 infections per 100,000
- 15-19 years 291 infections per 100,000

This is a significantly better position than at the end of October when our overall rate was nearly 580 infections per 100,000 people in Doncaster as a whole.

**Doncaster Council**

Waterdale,  
Doncaster, DN1 3BU

So on the basis of the rates of COVID, the Public Health advice is that there is confidence that schools can reopen for children if they are able to do so with consideration that their Coronavirus risk assessments have been updated since last term ended, including any new Government guidance and advice and they have sufficient staff available.

In order to ensure that schools are fully ready, it has been collectively agreed with schools that Primary Schools and Special Schools are able to have a COVID Planning day where children are not in attendance, on Monday January 4 2021, if this will help schools to reopen.

**Your school will be in touch with you directly to update you on when your school is reopening.**

Secondary schools have made their own arrangements in place for term restart on January 11 2021.

You can also see the rates for Doncaster on the Government's website:

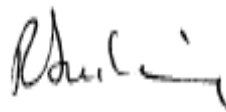
<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=Doncaster>

We hope you find this information useful in that it sets out that we are both confident that schools can reopen and are as safe as they can be working within the Coronavirus restrictions and guidance. There will be infections in schools and that is something that head teachers, school staff and governors are working tirelessly to manage with the support of the council and Public Health professionals.

Regards,



Riana Nelson  
Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills



Dr Rupert Suckling  
Director of Public Health

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