Government response to coronavirus (COVID-19) summary

Below are the key points that you need to know about the governments’ response to coronavirus and important advice for parents and children.

Guidance for parents and carers:

How to keep your child safe online?

- The government have updated their information for parents and carers.
- It now includes an important section on keeping children safe online. This also includes links to websites and online resources that can help support you as parents and carers in keeping your children safe online.

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help you:

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Updated guidance for schools about temporarily closing:

Guidance on the temporary closure of schools has been updated by the government and includes more information on areas including social distancing, vulnerable children and working with other schools.

- We have asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible.
- Schools are to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely need to attend.
- Whilst schools and all childcare settings, colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, will protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risks of spreading the virus.

Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore continuing to provide care for a limited number of children:

- children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.
While as many schools as possible should try to stay open for eligible pupils, this will not be possible for all settings, the local authority should coordinate pooling of resources so pupils are able to access provision elsewhere.

You can read more guidance about this at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures

Guidance for educational settings on the GOV.UK website:

All of the Department for Education’s coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found in one place on GOV.UK website below:

The government guidance for schools will be regularly kept up-to-date and should be checked for any new information. Any new advice for schools on specific issues, such as food, exams or safeguarding, will be found here:

Handwashing advice

The most important thing we must all do is to protect ourselves by washing our hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to washing your hands before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash their hands after using toilets and whenever you return home.

Below is the NHS step by step guide to washing your hands correctly and for 20 seconds:

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found here: