

## **FIGHTING CORONAVIRUS, PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND OUR NHS – INFORMATION FROM NORTH TYNESIDE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

From Monday the government has stated the following -

- **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
- **Schools as they normally run are closed.**
- **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**
- **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.**

**For a small number of children and families, there will be a different provision moving forwards. schools can only open if it is safe to do so. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Schools will be open **only** to children as follows:

1. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
2. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

### **Key Worker Roles**

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; 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**

This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

#### **Key public services**

This includes 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, and 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 food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes 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, 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**

This includes 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), 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 network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

If your child is one of the children who will be attending next week and they usually have a free school meal, they will be provided with a free packed lunch and parents can come in to collect them.

We need to monitor the situation on a daily basis for staff or children who are ill.  
Please ensure your contact details are current.

If you are a key worker and your school has to close, then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.