

To:  
Primary Phase Headteachers in  
Brighton & Hove

Date: 02 January 2020

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Dear colleagues

As you are aware, the Government announced on 30 December that they were enacting the DfE contingency framework for some local authority areas. We are writing to advise you that the infection rate for Covid 19 in the city has significantly increased since the beginning of December 2020.

Our published data (up to 27 December) shows that the rate in Brighton & Hove has increased by more than 500% since we came out of lock down at the beginning of December.

It is currently 388 per 100,000. However, the early indications are that this sharp increase is continuing, and we will approach rates of approximately 500 per 100,000 in the next few days. This rapid increase is mirrored in the rates in our children and young people.

The city's all ages pattern is similar to that previously seen in urban areas of Kent and East Sussex

Following a meeting between the council leadership and officers including public health earlier today, a decision was made to write to the Secretary of State for Education. The Leader of the Council is formally requesting that Brighton & Hove be named within the contingency framework and that primary schools move to remote learning for the majority of pupils from 4 January 2021.

Whilst we await a response from the DfE, the council is issuing advice to primary headteachers that from 4 January 2021 they should move to remote learning for all pupils except for vulnerable children and those of critical workers.

We recognise this is extremely last-minute advice and apologise for this. However, this is a fast-moving situation and we need to keep children, school staff and the wider community as safe as possible.

We continue to be concerned about the educational experiences our children have missed due to the pandemic and the impact on some children's emotional health and wellbeing of

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not being at school. We also remain concerned about the number of disadvantaged children who will continue to fall behind.

The priority has to be the safety of children, school staff and the wider community.

We will be regularly reviewing and will be in contact with you next week with further updates.

Yours sincerely,



Deb Austin  
Interim Executive Director,  
Families, Children & Learning.



Councillor Hannah Clare  
Chair of Children, Young People &  
Skills Committee