

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 October 2020 20:43

Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 15 October 2020 - COVID Alert Level 2: High

Dear All

Following on from the Essex County Council's request to the Secretary of State for Health to move Essex into the Local COVID Alert Level: High earlier in the week, in order to stem the rising tide of infections in our county, I am writing to inform you that this request has been approved by the Government and will come into effect across Essex at midnight on Friday 16 October.

The decision made with district leaders and MPs to ask for this was not taken lightly, and is likely to be unwelcome news to many residents of Essex. This short [video](#) from Dr Mike Gogarty, Essex's Director of Public Health, explains in more detail why the decision has been made to act now to slow the spread.

The move for Essex into the High Local Alert Level means **no change** to the education system in Essex. It is of the utmost importance that all children can attend their early years setting and school safely, to support their wellbeing and education and it is intended that all education settings remain fully open.

The attached list of questions and answers has been put together, which you may find helpful if staff or families have any questions and an alert level grid for comparison. The full government guidance on the High Local Alert Level can be found [here](#).

There is a communications plan around the move to the high alert level, which is led by our ECC central communications team. We will put together a letter specifically related to education for you to share with your parents community and this will be shared early next week.

I have also attached some additional general Covid-19 FAQs for your information

If you have any further questions, do please let us know

Best wishes.

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

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