



Critical Workers

14.12.2021

Dear parents/carers,

Concerns have been flagged by Government regarding the Omicron variant and the potential impact it may have on the NHS over time. Government and DfE have confirmed their commitment to prioritise face to face education. We all hope the additional measures being put in place as part of Plan B will ensure this remains the case.

In the unfortunate case of a full lockdown/schools being asked to move to remote learning, we will remain open onsite for children who are in a vulnerable group and to those whose parents are critical workers.

In the event of full lockdown/school moving to remote learning, our teachers/TAs teams will work at school to manage the learning for the children in their class at home and at school.

In the event of full lockdown/school moving to remote learning, we have planned for children on site to access the same live lessons/work as children working from home as much as possible. Children will attend full days, daily if working on site in the usual way. Daily attendance registers will be taken for children onsite and engagement registers will be taken for children working at home.

To help us plan for the possibility of remote learning, we are collating information about **children who have critical workers parents**. To find out if you are a critical worker, please **see Appendix A** - the current list of critical workers from March 2021. (This list may be subject to change and if it does we may need to ask you for this information again.)

We will, of course, follow guidance given by Government/GCC if we move to remote learning regarding managing risks for staff/children and how to prioritise the number of parents wanting places onsite for their children. During the previous full lockdown, local schools prioritised children when critical worker places were over-subscribed as outlined below:

- First, those in the vulnerable group (we know these children/families in our school already).
- Then families with two parents/carers who were both critical workers / single parent families where the single parent was a critical worker.
- After that, a tiered list of critical workers was used to prioritise - **see Appendix B**.

We will follow this hierarchy, if needed, so we have a clear system in place. As we have altered the way we offer provision, we do not think we will need to use the critical worker prioritising tier list but we want to be prepared by having this information in case needed.

If you are a critical worker, please **complete and return the information below for each child you have** – see the below template. Please give your job title, brief description of job/role and which tier your role falls within the tiered list in Appendix B. Please return to school by posting in the **black post box by the front entrance by 16th December**. We are sorry for the short time frame for the response but we need the information to help us prepare.

If we are directed to move to remote learning and you are a critical worker, please obtain a signed letter from your employer on headed paper and post them in the black letter box. You may want to talk with your employer about this now. We will refer to these letters in the future if needed/there are questions about eligibility.

We will use our INSET day on Tuesday 4th January to plan/prepare for remote learning if an announcement is made in the Christmas holiday directing us to work in this way. If we need more preparation time, we will have an additional INSET day on Wednesday 5th January. If this is the case, we will let you know as soon as possible.

We have not been told we will move to remote education in the new year - this letter is about helping us be prepared. Like you, we are pleased that the education and well-being of children is being prioritised by Government.

With many thanks for your help in this matter,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher

Critical Workers Form

Please complete one form PER CHILD and return to school in the black post box by Thursday 16th December 2021.

Name of child:

Child's class:

Is at least one parent a critical worker? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

If yes, are you a single parent family? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

Are two parents critical workers? Yes / No (delete appropriate)

Please complete the table below:

	Critical parent 1	Critical parent 2
Job title + Brief description of job/role		
Tier See Appendix B list		
I can evidence my critical worker status <small>(Signed letter from employer on headed paper)</small>		

Signed

Date

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Appendix A

Guidance

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings

Updated 9 March 2021

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

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
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (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
- 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)

- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- 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
- waste disposal sectors

Appendix B

Critical Workers Tiered List			
Tier 1 (in no particular order)	Tier 2 (in no particular order)	Tier 3 (in no particular order)	Tier 4 (in no particular order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Doctors ▪ Nurses ▪ Midwives ▪ Paramedics ▪ Social Workers ▪ Care workers ▪ Machine workers producing medicines / medical personal protective equipment ▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <i>categorically cannot</i> work from home ▪ Nursery staff* ▪ Teaching staff* ▪ School staff and school catering staff who must remain active during the COVID-19 to deliver this approach* ▪ Social workers ▪ Food distributors ▪ Food processors ▪ Food delivery drivers ▪ Police and support staff ▪ Ministry of Defence civilians ▪ Contractor and armed forces personnel who are 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) ▪ Workers responsible for the management of the deceased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health & social care supply chain workers ▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <i>could</i> work from home ▪ Food sale ▪ Those involved in the production, distribution, sale and delivery of hygienic or veterinary medicines ▪ Oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewerage) workers ▪ Waste disposal sector workers ▪ National Crime Agency staff ▪ Border security ▪ Prison and probation staff ▪ Other national security roles including those overseas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those running the justice system ▪ Air, water and road workers ▪ Freight transport workers operating through COVID-19 responses ▪ Telecommunications including call centre staff for 999 and 111 critical services) ▪ Specialist education professionals who aren't school based ▪ Civil nuclear and chemical workers ▪ Network operation and field engineering workers ▪ Payment providers ▪ Charity workers providing support and relief in relation to COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religious staff ▪ Journalists providing public service broadcasting ▪ Broadcasters providing public service broadcasting ▪ Local and national government administrators delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arms-length bodies. ▪ Rail passenger workers ▪ Essential financial services provision (including but not limited to banks, building societies, financial market infrastructure) ▪ Information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response ▪ Postal services and delivery workers