

Updated Guidance for Children and Young People in the Shielding Group in Leeds

As of 1st August the advice to shield at home has been paused.

Because rates of Coronavirus infection have reduced since they were at their peak, the Government has paused shielding, meaning that if you and your child can take extra care to, it should be safe to resume most normal activities, such as going to the shops, places of worship, or to school.


Further, the latest evidence indicates the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. This means some children and young people can be safely removed from the shielding group. Your child's specialist or GP will be in touch before the start of the school term to discuss what this means for them.

If your child's doctor has advised them to continue shielding at home because of their current medical treatment, they should follow that advice.



Coronavirus continues to be a risk, and rates could increase again. Take all precautions to stay safe. If rates do increase the advice to shield may be reinstated.

The best ways to stay safe are:

		
Washing hands regularly, especially when returning home.	Wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces if it is safe to do so (see below).	Keeping a physical distance from those not living in your household or 'support bubble'.

Should my child wear a face covering?

- Children who are aged 11 and above must wear face coverings in most indoor settings (not in their own home, or in school and college).
- Children aged under 11 do not have to wear face coverings, but they are recommended in indoor settings, other than their own home or school.
- Children aged under 3 are advised not to wear a face covering for health and safety reasons.

- Children with some medical conditions, particularly breathing conditions, do not have to wear face coverings, regardless of age.

Returning to school

All schools in Leeds are due to open to all pupils at the start of the Autumn term. Safety measures will be in place at all schools to help keep pupils and staff safe. Each school is different, therefore the safety measures for each are specific to that school. However, common measures you may find include a one-way system in corridors, extra hand sanitising equipment, and staggered start and finish times.

As shielding has been paused, your child will be expected back at school as normal. The school will have been made aware that your child is in the shielding group before the start of the term, so that staff at the school can support them to stay safe.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents and carers are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. If this applies to your child, schools are expected to offer them access to remote education. You should discuss this with your child's school.

Shopping, food, and prescriptions

The government's offer of food boxes, prescription deliveries, and help getting essential supplies is no longer available. If you are worried about getting essential items safely we may be able to help you locally. Call: **0113 378 1877**. If you have an immediate need for emergency food contact: **0113 376 0330**.

If you have been receiving priority access to supermarket home deliveries, these will continue to be available – although you can no longer register for this support.

Feeling unwell

The NHS is still here to help you and your family. If you are feeling unwell or are struggling to manage an existing health condition call your GP or NHS111. Call 999 or visit A&E for emergencies.

If you or your child develop symptoms of Coronavirus, **do not** go to hospital or your GP – **stay home and get a test**. Call 119 or visit: www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

Stay informed:

			
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leeds.gov.uk/shielding	0113 378 1877	Select LCC Covid19	07480632471