

Date: 11th September 2020

Our Ref:

Direct Line: 01253 476558

Email: diane.booth@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Colleagues

I write to reiterate the advice of our Public Health Director in relation to symptomatic children and school attendance.

As you are aware we are proposing a low threshold, learning from the successful approach we have taken as a local authority in our care homes.

I appreciate that this advice broadens the scope and need for testing. The current issues in testing and laboratory capacity are exacerbating the situation. The testing and laboratory capacity has been raised as a critical issue and plans are underway to address and improve swift access, which will support school attendance.

Our Public Health Director's advice, which I support, is that we follow the World Health Organisations list of symptoms to support keeping transmission low and keep our children, young people and staff team's as safe as we possibly can (symptoms referenced below).

I appreciate that this is a challenging time for all schools and our community, but our approach I feel is the most appropriate to take.

Yours sincerely



Diane Booth
Director of Children's Services



Dr Arif Rajpura
Director of Public Health

WHO list of symptoms

Most common symptoms:

- fever

- dry cough
- tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- conjunctivitis
- headache
- loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- loss of speech or movement

