



Gyda'n gilydd gallwn ni i gyd helpu i gadw **Sir y Fflint** yn ddiogel
Together we can all help to keep **Flintshire** safe

COVID-19 Update 8 October 2020

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Council statement on schools

Flintshire County Council, working with partner organisations, is taking action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among young people in the county, as transmission of the virus is still increasing. This is why local “lockdown” restrictions have been introduced in four North Wales’ counties, including Flintshire.

If any pupil tests positive there is a strong probability, particularly in secondary schools, that the entire school year will be asked to self-isolate for two weeks. The extent of the group asked to self-isolate will depend on the individual school’s organisational plans, the building layout and to what extent pupils have been able to be kept separate during the school day, and staff availability.

The Council works closely with Public Health Wales to review the number of potential contacts of the pupil who has tested positive to decide who needs to self-isolate. Sometimes, information about positive test outcomes can be received late in the evening or over a weekend, so, in the first instance, it is sensible to take a cautious approach and ask

the entire cohort to self-isolate to ensure pupil safety. There is then the opportunity to review the situation and the movements of the pupil who has tested positive to see if it is possible to reduce the numbers of pupils having to self-isolate. There has to be certainty that there has not been the opportunity for cross-contamination before relaxing any advice.

The minimisation of the transmission of the virus and the safety of the community has to take priority. We know that this is the safest way to approach this virus which is so easily transmitted. Self-isolating only a small number of pupils could exacerbate the spread further.

Flintshire County Council's Chief Officer for Education and Youth, Claire Homard, said:

"Schools have full risk assessments in place and are taking stringent precautions to protect both staff and students. They also have plans ready to switch pupils who cannot attend school onto their digital learning platforms to ensure continuity of education.

"It is impossible for schools to monitor what students do outside of school time. It is therefore important for parents and carers to know where their children are and what they are doing. They should be no mixing with friends who attend different schools, for example. We ask for the support of parents and carers in this to reduce the spread of the virus and the impact on schools."

Schools remain open and the Council is working closely with the schools affected, Public Health Wales and NHS Wales Test, Trace and Protect to ensure appropriate measures are in place.

Parents and carers are being asked to remain alert for the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- A new or continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

Those advised to self-isolate should book a coronavirus test if they develop any of these symptoms, even if they are mild. A test can be booked by phoning 119 or online: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

Advice requires those self-isolating to stay at home, not to go outdoors to exercise, to visit shops, family or friends, or to other public spaces.

Further formation on Test, Trace, Protect can be found here <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-coronavirus>

Face coverings to be mandatory on school transport

Flintshire County Council has announced that all secondary school aged pupils travelling on dedicated school coaches will be required to wear a face covering from Monday, 12 October. This decision has been taken to further protect those travelling and to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. This decision has been taken as part of the response to Flintshire now being a health protection zone with tighter restrictions in place to support public safety.

With the spread of coronavirus increasing in Flintshire and surrounding counties, the mandatory wearing of face coverings by children and young people aged 11 and over on dedicated school transport is now required in the same way it is on public transport.

Some children and young people will be exempt from wearing a face covering and these exemptions still apply as for public transport.

Children under the age of 11 do not have to wear a face covering, however they may choose to wear one but need to be able to handle it safely as directed.

Flintshire County Council's Chief Officer for Education and Youth, Claire Homard, said:

"Protecting Flintshire's children and young people is a priority. We want to be able to keep them in education and by introducing mandatory face coverings on all school transport, we are helping to do that.

"We feel that taking this decision now is an important additional measure to help keep children and everyone they come into contact safe from Covid-19. We would ask that, as parents and carers, you explain to your children why this is so important during this time and ensure they have their masks with them when travelling and attending school.

"We really do understand the difficulties that everyone of us is facing right now, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated – thank you!"

Remembrance 2020



The Remembrance period is vitally important to us all, in order that we can honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community.

The Welsh Government fully appreciates that Local Authorities, town and community councils, along with charities and the Military, will be planning Remembrance activity for November 2020 and we want to ensure organisers have as much information available to them in order to plan Remembrance activity safely.

Given the current situation with Covid 19, it is clear that Remembrance this year will look somewhat different to previous years and will have to take account of the current situation, reflecting the regulations in place at the time to limit the spread of the virus. The Welsh Government will be marking the occasion, albeit in amended format, with participation at the opening of the Wales Field of Remembrance and Festival of Remembrance (led by the Royal British Legion) and the National Service of Remembrance which will take place in a limited capacity.

In order that organisers can adhere to guidelines and safely plan Acts of Remembrance, we are sharing the current national and local guidance for Wales regarding Covid 19. As this is a fast moving situation, we will circulate updates as they happen and would urge organisers to regularly check and monitor announcements regarding permitted activity relevant to the area. It is not possible to predict where we will be in November as you will appreciate but we hope the following guidance will help plan activity.

Rules for outdoor gatherings and places of worship, are included in the FAQs and we hope these will help the planning of Acts of Remembrance e.g. At War memorials.

Links:

[Coronavirus regulations – FAQs](#)

[Local lockdown information](#)

[Guidance on leaving your home and seeing other people](#)

[Coronavirus and the law](#)

Refurbs welcomes upcycler

Refurbs the local social enterprise providing quality affordable household furniture and appliances are excited to announce they are welcoming an 'upcycler' to work from their outlets in Flint and Wrexham.

Kim from 'Reloved by Kim' will be joining the team at Refurbs to share, exhibit and demonstrate what upcycling is all about.

Kim started 'Reloved by Kim' in February 2020 as a hobby to help with her mental health after an operation on her back. Since then things have gone from strength to strength. Kim mainly works on pieces of furniture she has been commissioned to upcycle but is going to be doing much more at Refurbs.

At Refurbs she will be taking some of the donated furniture and upcycling them for resale from our outlets. Kim will also still take on commissions and host upcycling workshops and drop-in sessions offering hints and tips at both the Flint and Wrexham outlets.

Kim is excited to be joining Refurbs:

"I am really excited to be working with Refurbs. It is great to be part of something after working on my own. I am looking forward to the exciting plans for developing the outlets in Flint and Wrexham. Refurbs do great work in the community not only reducing items sent to landfill but offering volunteering and training opportunities too."

Martin Hawthorne Enterprise Manager at Refurbs wants people to have the confidence to reuse and repair:

"We are delighted to have Kim joining the Refurbs team. We really want to be able to give people the confidence to reuse and repair, with guidance and support. Not only does it help reduce the waste to landfill it give the individuals a sense of accomplishment and achievement when a piece is finished."

You can learn more about Refurbs by visiting refurbs.org.uk and keep up to date with their work by following them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Refurbs is a registered charity (reg no 1093176) with outlets on Aber Park Industrial Estate Flint and Henblas St, Wrexham. Refurbs offer affordable, quality household appliances and furniture. Helping households with low incomes furnish their homes for less and stopping good quality items ending up in landfill.

For further information contact: admin@refurbs.org.uk / 01352

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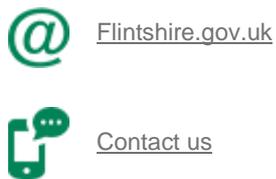




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