



Tuesday, 12 May 2020

Important Corona Virus Update

Dear Colleagues

This is the official NEU response [as of 17.28 yesterday] to the most recent government announcements on ending the lockdown:

The Government has today released its plan to end the lockdown.

In “OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy”, it says that nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils will go back to school on 1 June.

It then goes on to say that the Government hopes all primary pupils will be back at school a few weeks later.

In secondary schools and colleges, year 10 and year 12 pupils will have some face-to-face tuition next half term. There are no clear conditions to decide how or when this goes forward.

We agree with the British Medical Association (BMA) that the Government’s plan is too fast, too confusing and too risky. We don’t accept that schools can safely open more widely on 1 June.

So far the Government has not engaged with us to discuss any further advice on social distancing, testing in schools, PPE or about those who are vulnerable, including BME staff.

No school or college can make plans based on the information we currently have from Government.

Our strong advice is that, on this basis, you should currently not engage with any planning based on a wider reopening of schools.

If your head asks you if you will be available for wider working after 1 June, we urge you to reply that you are waiting further advice from your union.

Please look out for further guidance – we will be in touch soon.

Best wishes to you and your family at this worrying time,

Stay Safe

**John
(Divisional Secretary Merton NEU)**