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**Please be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation**

**Date: [date]**

Dear Parent

**RE: Request for Letter Regarding Returning to School**

<<Name>> <<DOB>>

You have requested information as to whether the above named child, who is a patient of the practice, is able to return to school with their year group when schools re-open. The closure of schools was part of the Covid-19 pandemic national response to increase social distancing.

The Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health has produced advice on returning to school and has classified children into one of the four cohorts below:

1. Clinically extremely vulnerable children to remain shielded and not to return to school, even if their year group has.
2. Clinically vulnerable children who are only under the care of primary care are overwhelmingly likely to benefit from returning to school when their year group does.
3. Clinically vulnerable children, who are under secondary or specialist care for an underlying health condition are, on the balance of probabilities, more likely to benefit from returning to school when their year group does so. Families may need a conversation with a clinician to balance the potential risks and any familial anxiety.
4. All other children should attend school when their year group returns.

If the above named child is in the category 1 cohort of being clinically extremely vulnerable you would already have received notification regarding this, if you are in any doubt the list of conditions included can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>

If they are in the category 3 cohort, they will be under secondary/tertiary care (hospital based care) and you may want to speak to either the hospital team that they are under or

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your GP to check whether they are able to return to school at this time. For any other child, they should return to school when the rest of their year group returns.

We also want to reassure you that schools will have been instructed as follows:

- To carry out a risk assessment before opening to more children and young people, and directly address risks associated with coronavirus so that sensible measures can be put in place to minimise those risks for children, young people and staff.
- To make sure that children and young people do not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus.
- To promote regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach.
- To clean more frequently, to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, tabletops, play equipment and toys.
- To minimise contact through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the environment as much as possible, such as changing the layout of classrooms.
- To reduce mixing between groups through timetable changes, such as staggered break times or by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times.

Yours sincerely,

**On behalf of Hereford Medical Practice**

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