

# Staff Headlines

16th October 2020

*This week you have all continued to work through exceptional circumstances and we wish to thank you for your commitment and resilience at this time. We are thankful to each and every one of you for your valuable contribution in delivering key services to help support our children and young people.*

## Executive Announcement

The Executive, this week, agreed a range of significant time-bound interventions to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Northern Ireland. In addition to current household restrictions, additional measures will come into regulatory effect on Friday 16th October and will be in place for a period of four weeks. You can read full details of the Executive's announcement and details of additional restrictions [here](#).



**COVID-19 NI EXECUTIVE RESTRICTIONS**

Northern Ireland Executive

No indoor mixing of households in private dwellings (exemptions apply)	No more than six people to gather in a private garden from no more than two households	Building to be limited to a maximum of 10 people from 2 households	No overnight stays in a private home unless in a bubble	Work from home unless unable to do so	Closure of close contact services apart from those meeting essential health needs
Schools extended half-term break from October 19-30	Universities and further education to deliver education to the maximum extent possible	Closure of the hospitality sector apart from deliveries and food take-away	No alcohol sold after 8pm in off-licence and supermarkets	All take away premises to close at 11pm	No mass events involving more than 15 people regardless of risk assessment (except for allowed outdoor sporting events)
No indoor sport of any kind or organised contact sport involving household mixing other than at elite level	Gyms to remain open for individual training only	Places of worship to remain open	Wedding ceremonies to be limited to 25 people with no receptions	Funerals to be limited to 25 people with no pre- or post-funeral gatherings	No unnecessary travel

Continue to follow the public health advice including:

If you have symptoms, stay at home, self-isolate and book a test	Limit social contacts	Keep your distance	Wear a face covering	Wash your hands	Download the StopCOVID NI app
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Get up-to-date advice at: [nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT** STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

## What the Executive Announcement means for Education Settings

The Executive's announcement means that schools and other education settings will have the half-term holiday break extended from 19th to 30th October. Education settings will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks including for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Schools and other settings will reopen on Monday, 2nd November. Over the last few days you will have received some important communication from the Department of Education and the Education Authority (EA) in response to the Executive's announcement including:

- Letter from the Minister of Education regarding the Executive announcement which provides an overview of logging of closure days, staff pay arrangements, free school meals payments and youth service provision - 14.10.20
- Letter regarding the cancelling of Procurement orders - 15.10.20
- Letter to Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and EOTAS provisions to advise that Independent Counselling Service for schools will be provided remotely next week - 15.10.20
- Letter on availability of Entitlement Framework Online Audit to schools - 15.10.20
- Communication from EA Director of Education providing an overview of COVID-19 related support services, contact details and operating times over the school closure period has been sent to principals. Information for schools is also available on [C2K Covid-19 page](#). The Covid-19 page is listed under 'Resources', on C2K home page - 16.10.20
- Communication from EA to clarify on pay arrangements from 19th October - 16.10.20

## What the Executive announcement means for other non-school based staff

Non-school based staff that are fully operation working from home should continue to do so. Only staff that have received authorisation from their Line Manager or an Assistant Director and have completed a risk assessment form can access office buildings. The capacity in offices will continue to be monitored on an ongoing basis. A further update will follow next week.

It is important to keep up to date and informed with what is happening within the wider organisation, wherever you are working from at the moment. We would encourage Line Managers to share Employee Updates with their teams to help stay connected. Employee Updates are also available on the EA website [here](#) along with FAQs.

## Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020

In the midst of another busy week, we want to take the opportunity to express our warmest congratulations to those that were recognised on the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 for their valuable contribution to the education sector in Northern Ireland.

### **Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

Miss Anne-Marie Bagnall  
Mr Geoffrey Thomas Cherry  
Mr James Andrew Stewart Curran  
Mrs Susan Jill Jones  
Mr Colin Millar

### **Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)**

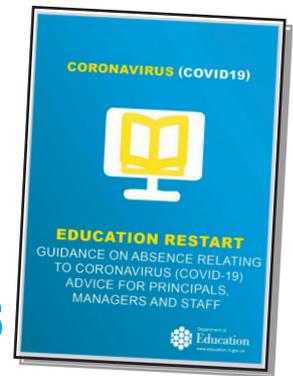
Mr Stephen George Edwin Baillie  
Miss Margaret Jacinta Hegarty  
Mr Thomas Robert McCormick Q.P.M.  
Mr James McIlorum  
Mrs Joy Lorainne Pendleton

The full list of Queen's Birthday Honours award recipients can be viewed [here](#).

### **Thank you**

*We recognise that this 'circuit breaker' is essential to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone. Again, we commend all staff for what you have all achieved over the last seven months. We hope that the additional period of school closure will go some way to alleviate some of the pressures that schools have been facing.*

## Revised Guidance on Absence Relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Revised Guidance on Absence Relating to COVID-19: Advice for Principals, Managers and Staff was published on 29th September 2020 and is available [here](#).

This Guidance on Absence should be read alongside the latest Public Health Agency (PHA)/Government guidance, to support Principals, Line Managers and Staff and [Guidance on Supporting Staff to Return to Schools](#) (updated 10 August 2020). For non-school based staff please click [here](#).

Decisions regarding an employee's attendance at the work place should be taken in line with the latest PHA guidance. Staff must keep their Principal/Line Manager informed on attendance issues. The Guidance on Absence applies to employees subject to NJC/JNC and TNC terms and conditions including substitute teachers and non-teaching staff providing emergency cover for the period of time they have been engaged to work.

## We want to hear from you

If you have any news or stories that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming edition of staff hEAdlines, email [comms@eani.org.uk](mailto:comms@eani.org.uk)

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