



By Email

Reply to Alison Hurley
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Our ref
Date 5th June 2020

Dear Colleagues

I want to make you aware that later today there will be an announcement indicating that the R rate for the South West is now 1.

Understandably, this will raise a number of concerns, related to the wider opening of schools. The following information, from Public Health is useful in gaining an understanding of the risk implications of this increase.

- Bristol along with the rest of South West currently still has the lowest number of reported cases across the country, but we should expect to see an increase in recorded confirmed cases as testing increases.
- The number of cases in Bristol currently stands at 708 cases or a rate of 153 cases per 100,000 people (as at 4th June). This is higher than the regional rate of 139 per 100,000, but is below the England average of 274 per 100,000 people. We would expect Bristol to be higher than the region because it's more densely populated
- The number of cases will continue to be reviewed as rates will vary over time, especially in areas where more testing opportunities are provided.

The Director of Public Health for Bristol, Christina Gray, advises that the change in the R rate does not have an impact on the current risk level for schools at the moment. This means that your current risk assessments and practice continue to be valid and, as always, your individual circumstances will determine your decision making.

Christina, along with Public Health England are closely monitoring the local situation and I will inform you if anything changes.

Bristol City Council will also be releasing a statement to the public that supports the above points. Although this does not specifically mention schools, hopefully it will provide further clarification for your communities.

Best wishes

Alison Hurley, Director, Education and Skills

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