

Essex County Council  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **COVID19 Response – Cleaning Contractors**

Dear Cleaning Contractor,

It has been brought to our attention that some cleaning contractors are refusing to undertake vital cleaning activity on site of educational settings within Essex.

As you will know the Government, as of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, has directed early years settings, schools and colleges to remain open for vulnerable children and the children of workers critical to the ongoing COVID19 response. This is to ensure that our most vulnerable children are safeguarded, and our critical workers can continue to go to work to respond to the COVID19 emergency.

Schools and settings have been advised to increase the amount of cleaning being undertaken and follow good hygiene practices. If cleaning contractors refuse to fulfil their contracts at this time we risk schools and settings having to close. This would directly impact the delivery of services critical to the COVID19 response, such as health and social care and risk the safety of our most vulnerable children.

It is essential that cleaning continues as a minimum, as per your usual contract, for these establishments if we are to prevent the spread of the virus as much as possible. We would be hugely disappointed if any contractor was to continue to refuse to clean school sites.

I refer you to the guidance issued by the Government on cleaning these establishments:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

It is essential that schools, settings, colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children and we appreciate your cooperation with this.

Kind Regards,



Clare Kershaw  
Director of Education  
Sent on behalf of:  
Essex County Council