

Dear parents/carers

You may have seen recent media coverage of incidents at Salford Quays where adults and young people were gathering, risking the spread of coronavirus and putting themselves in danger by jumping from bridges and swimming unsupervised in the water.

There has already been a tragedy this year and we do not want to see any further deaths.

The hot weather could return, and we still have the whole of the summer to go. We don't want any more lives lost or hearts broken – please talk to your children and warn them of the dangers of open water and remind them of the coronavirus regulations which still remain in force.

**These are the facts:**

No matter how warm the weather, open water is cold. Jumping into cold water automatically sends your body into shock.

You automatically gasp for air which means you could swallow water. It only takes half a pint of water in your lungs for a grown man to drown.

Cold water shock makes it hard to move in the water, increasing the danger. It can cause heart attacks even in young healthy people.

There might be hidden dangers below the surface; if you go deep you could get caught on debris underwater and not be able to surface again.

People are banned from unsupervised swimming in the Quays for safety reasons. Salford City Council and Greater Manchester Police patrol the Quays and they are monitored by CCTV cameras. Anyone caught breaking the ban faces a fixed penalty notice of up to £100.

Coronavirus hasn't gone away and there is still a risk of spreading the infection. The overall advice is that everyone should stay home as much as possible. You are allowed to meet outdoors in small groups of no more than six people but everyone in that group must stay 2 metres apart.

**There are many safer ways young people can socialise. Please talk to them now and make sure they stay safe.**

**Illegal raves**

Greater Manchester Police are urging anyone who is considering attending an illegal rave to stay away and help prevent such gatherings from taking place.

We are still in the midst of a deadly pandemic. Coronavirus has not gone away yet 6,000 people – adults and young people - attended two illegal events in Greater Manchester last weekend. Parents were seen dropping off their teenage children. The police fear more raves are being planned this weekend and over the summer.

If you become aware of any such event, no matter how large or small, or how detailed or limited your information, please pass whatever you know on to the police. You can do that through LiveChat on their website <https://www.gmp.police.uk/>, by calling 101 or completely anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Illegal raves always come with dangers. The police fear they are being staged by organised criminals and people's safety cannot be guaranteed. Sadly, last weekend was no exception. One young woman was raped, a young man was seriously stabbed and could have died but for the efforts of police and paramedics who pushed through the crowds to reach him and a young man died after a drugs overdose. Police recovered drugs and weapons and local residents came out in force to help clean up the sea of litter left behind.

There will be time to party safely when coronavirus is no longer such a risk. But now is not that time. Please support the police – share what you know, stay away and talk to your children and make sure they stay away and stay safe.

Best wishes

Cathy Starbuck  
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