

Parent / Carer

## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

I would like to thank everyone who is continuing to do their bit to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Despite our collective efforts, I am concerned about rates of infection among children and young people [locally](#). While children usually get a very mild illness, rising infection rates in children will eventually push up infection rates in older more vulnerable age groups.

To prevent this, I am asking that early years providers and schools in the borough review their existing risk assessments and consider the introduction of additional infection prevention and control measures that might reduce transmission. The specific measures will vary between settings based on rates of infection, but are likely to include wearing face coverings in communal areas for adults and secondary school aged children.

I hope that you will continue to support your child's early years provider or school by complying with any additional Covid-prevention measures required. I also urge you to continue to take steps to protect yourselves, your family and others, including:

- [Getting vaccinated when eligible](#). Vaccination reduces the chance of catching Covid-19, and significantly reduces the risk of serious illness. However, it is still possible to get a mild disease, and pass this on to others without knowing it. Everyone aged 40 and above is eligible for a third booster dose 6 months after their second dose. Anyone who hasn't had 2 doses can get jabbed immediately,
- Wearing face coverings in crowded places, even when vaccinated. Face coverings significantly reduce the chances of passing on infection and protect the wearer.
- [Getting tested](#) with a PCR test if symptomatic, and using LFD tests when you have spent time in high-risk settings e.g. large indoor gatherings or before you visit vulnerable people, such as older people, people with long term conditions or immune-compromised, or pregnant. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection, and over the Christmas break, you should continue to test regularly, especially if your child is attending schools and early years settings that remain open.
- Should you test positive, then isolate and follow the advice of NHS Test and Trace,
- When indoors with people who you don't live with, increase air flow by opening windows. This reduces the level of virus that hangs in the air.

Further advice about Christmas and returning to school in the Spring term will be shared shortly. In the meantime, the Council's Public Health Team and colleagues in the UK Health Security Agency will continue to monitor rates of infection and will issue further advice if needed.

Kind regards,



**Mark Ansell**  
Director of Public Health