

COVID Email Update 10 August 2020

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your own families are all doing ok, and I hope the first week of bubbles and returning to face-to-face work went smoothly for you. Do keep in contact with me and with your line manager over the coming weeks with feedback about our new processes and ways of working. It's really important you say what's working well for you and families, and what needs changing, as we move into this next phase of our COVID response. Day at a time, step at a time, constant review.

Updates for you this week:

Self Isolation Period Extended to 10 Days

A reminder that the Government has now increased the self-isolation periods for COVID. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/self-isolation-and-stay-at-home-guidance/#main>

Face Coverings Now Need to be Worn in Most Indoor Spaces

From 8 August, the Government significantly increased the number of indoor venues and places where face coverings must be worn. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/face-masks-and-face-coverings/#main>

Early Help Assessments and Plans Guidance Updated

You'll remember that we sent out guidance on conducting assessments and plans at the start of COVID. This guidance has been updated to reflect the current position on COVID and is now available here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/assessments-and-plans-guidance/#main>

Lone Working and COVID

The FSCF/CSSW lone working procedure is being updated to reflect COVID-related risks. This will cover what you need to do if you discover COVID symptoms during a face-to-face visit that were previously undisclosed or unreported during the pre-visit checklist. I have sent CSSW the Public Health guidance on this, and the updated lone working procedure version will be on the Guidebook here by the end of the week <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/lone-working-and-assessing-other-risks/#main>

Readiness For Going Back to School in September

Whilst there is an expectation that all children will return to school in September, this may feel challenging for some families, including concerns about transport or buildings safety, or for children who have been shielding or who may have experienced school anxiety pre-COVID. Public Health have produced some booklets for parents which you can find on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-govt-advice-for-parents/#main> and there are also some webinars planned for parents to attend (details to follow).

If you need any support for parents or children expressing these anxieties, or if you need to think together with someone about how to support families around this issue, please do talk with our Educational Psychology colleagues or your line manager. We will also be putting on a webinar for you in early September on Emotionally Based School Avoidance to help us with our thinking around this.

I'm also mindful many of us (me included) are parents with children due to go back to school in a few weeks, and this might be causing us to feel some worry too. If you feel like you need to talk this through, do reach out to a friend, a colleague, or your line manager. You're not alone and we're here for you.

Chromebooks for Our Families

We have been given 22 Chromebooks and our plan is to gift these to families who currently have loan laptops. We have 30 laptops out on loan, but we have ordered more Chromebooks so we can eventually replace all the loan laptops with gift Chromebooks that families can keep. If you are working with a family who has a loan laptop, I will contact you over the next couple of weeks to arrange for the collection of the loan laptop and delivery of the gift Chromebooks. Brilliant that we are able to do this through to a charitable donation secured by our friends in Adult and Community Learning – huge thanks to them.

Holiday Food Programmes – Free to Access

A reminder that there are 7 holiday food programmes offering free meals and activities for low income families and children on FSM across the borough this summer. Calthorpe Community Gardens project (WC1) particularly encouraging us to spread the word and connect families with children aged 5-13 who might benefit. Details here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/summer-food-programmes/#main>

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any family needs emerging over the summer, and to tell me how the return to face-to-face work is going for you and for families, This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 10 AUGUST](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

Updated List of Where to Wear Face Masks List of all the places where face coverings must be worn from 8 August https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/face-masks-and-face-coverings/#main	New Summer Activities Lots more ideas for things to do for children and families over the summer, including summer play schemes and a packed summer programme from our amazing friends in community centres and projects – well worth checking out https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/childrens-activities-and-home-learning/summer-holidays-things-to-do/	Holiday Food Programmes More food and activity hubs now running in Camden for families with low income or children eligible for FSM https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/summer-food-programmes/#main
Safety Plans with Children A useful template for helping children and young people think about safety plans https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/	International Travel & Restrictions The list of countries where 'essential travel only' regulations are in force is here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/travelling-to-the-uk/#main	Tax Free Childcare – New Govt Announcement On 5 August, the Government announced new support for working families around tax free childcare and the 30 hours free childcare. Info here https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/help-for-under-5s/tax-free-childcare-and-covid/#main

We are now in week 21 of COVID, and our capacity and referral rate continues to hold steady. Stay safe and well and, as always, shout if there is anything you need.

Becca