

**\*Click the attachment for the dyslexia friendly version of this email\***

Good morning to you, I hope you and your families are doing okay.

The second national lockdown ends this Wednesday. This marks another turning point in the COVID crisis as we move back to a (slightly changed - again) local Tier restrictions system. Sending love to those of you who are in Tier 3 at the moment, or who have friends and family in Tier 3, I know it's incredibly frustrating (I do have stronger words but don't want to swear). In Camden we continue to be guided by the expertise of our Public Health colleagues.

The current Tiers will be reviewed every 14 days, so it is possible things could change again in the near future. December and January might feel a bit bumpy as we see how the Tier system works out. As always, I will do all I can to keep our response calm, consistent and managed, with as little disruption and as much safety as possible for you and the families you are helping.

My shout out this week is for Camden schools. In 2020, we have seen how Camden schools' love for learning is matched by their love for children. I have been involved in advocacy cases in the last fortnight where headteachers have gone above and beyond to make sure children are safe, fed, well, and cared for. And I'm talking about things like teachers bringing in winter coats and shoes from home for the kids.

They shouldn't have to do this. I'm thankful that they do. Camden schools - we see you, we thank you and we genuinely couldn't do this without you.

Updates for you this week:

#### **Exit from Second Lockdown Briefing**

Tomorrow at 12pm, there will be a whole service briefing on the exit from second lockdown and our way of working from 2 December. Calendar invite was sent last week, please let me know if you need this again.

#### **New 3-Tier Social Distancing Guidance**

The new Government guidance for each Tier is now on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/>. There is also a postcode checker so you can check restrictions in your local area <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/local-lockdown-guidance/#main>

#### **New Guidance for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People**

The Government has issued updated guidance for people who were previously shielding. This is guidance from 2 December when lockdown ends. You can find this on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main>

#### **Christmas Webinar – Who Do You Think You Are?**

Where does the job you do come from? Who pioneered family support, when and why? Whose shoulders do we stand on? What could family support become in the future? For a very special round off to our 2020 webinar series, I'm delighted to welcome Professor June Thoburn, Emeritus Professor from East Anglia University, for a journey through the 150 years (yes, 150 years) of our family support and social work history, which has quite a few surprises in it! 16 December, 12pm, calendar invite to follow.

#### **Camden COVID Data**

Here is the latest COVID data for Camden so you can see what the current case rate is:

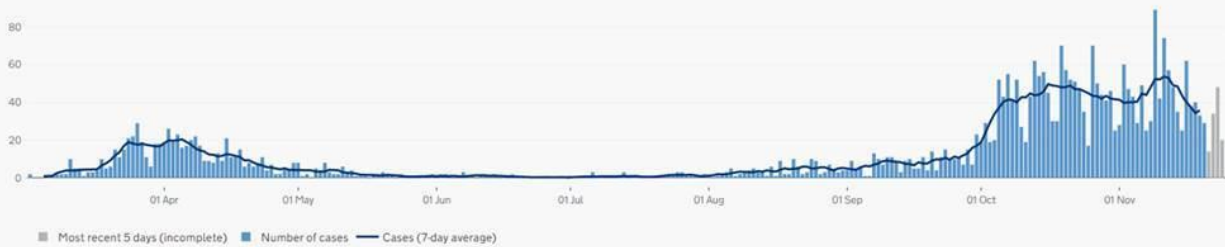
**People tested positive**

Daily	Total
41	3,403

**Cases by specimen date**

Number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result (either lab-reported or lateral flow device), by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test. The most recent 5 days' data, highlighted in grey, are incomplete.

**Daily** Cumulative Data About

**Addressing Poverty in Our Daily Work**

Following last week's webinar on Poverty Proofing our Practice, I have put a new section on addressing poverty in the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/poverty-proofing-our-practice/>. Have a look at the conversation prompt sheet from Research in Practice to help guide purposeful and compassionate conversations about poverty. I used it last week and it's very helpful. You can find it here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/poverty-proofing-our-practice/talking-about-poverty-with-families/#main>.

The country's economic downturn because of COVID, combined with Camden's already high child poverty rate, means poverty will become an ever-growing part of our work in the months ahead. So let's keep doing all we can to prepare ourselves well, and help alleviate family poverty in whatever ways we can.

**Support and Advice for Families who are NRPF or Seeking Asylum**

During COVID, the Home Office set up 'COVID temporary accommodation' venues for people seeking asylum. There are a number of these venues in Camden and across London. This means there are more families seeking asylum or who have NRPF in Camden at the moment. This makes it more likely you could be working with a family who are seeking asylum or who have NRPF in the near future.

To help you in this work, I have put more information and links to resources on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/>. Many of the other Guidebook sections (food, registering for GPs, dentists, applying for school places, grant and charity applications etc) will also be helpful.

**Mediation Services**

In last week's survey, one of you asked about mediation services for separated parents. I have asked legal if there are any free mediation services they recommend, but in the meantime, there are a number of mediation services available in Camden and I have put a link on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/separated-parents/#main>

Mediation is also free for people who qualify for legal aid and CAFCASS can help arrange this if the family are already in court proceedings. More information here <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parents-and-carers/divorce-and-separation/family-mediation/>.

**Weekly Survey**

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and anything you need. This week's survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 30 NOVEMBER](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here  
<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

<p><b>Applying for School Places in Camden</b>          Information about how to apply for a school place (including in-year applications)  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/applying-for-a-school-place/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/applying-for-a-school-place/#main</a></p>	<p><b>Support for Asylum Seeking Families or Families who have NRPF</b>          More information sources and resources added  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/refugee-and-asylum-seeking-families/</a></p>	<p><b>Helping with Poverty</b>          A new section to help us talk about, and alleviate, poverty with families  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/poverty-proofing-our-practice/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/poverty-proofing-our-practice/</a></p>
<p><b>Find My Nearest</b>          An interactive tool to find the nearest services and supports in Camden (on the bottom of the link below)  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/</a></p>	<p><b>New Local Restrictions Guidance from 2 December</b>          Information about the new 3-tier local restrictions system after national lockdown  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main</a></p>	<p><b>Camden Dentists</b>          Links to contact details for dentists in Camden  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health-hospitals-gps-and-prescriptions/dentists/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health-hospitals-gps-and-prescriptions/dentists/#main</a></p>
<p><b>Mediation Services</b>          Links to information about mediation for separated parents  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/separated-parents-and-parents-in-conflict/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/separated-parents-and-parents-in-conflict/#main</a></p>	<p><b>Updated Guidance for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People</b>          New Government guidance for people who were previously shielding to follow from 2 December  <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-high-risk-people-shielding/#main</a></p>	

We are now in week 37 of COVID, and day 26 of the second lockdown. Our current capacity remains stable. As we begin the run up to Christmas, I know we are all making difficult choices about whether and how to see loved ones. Whatever plans you are making for Christmas, I hope you are scheduling in some rest, some peace and some restorative time. It's been a long year with a lot to process. Recharging the batteries matters a very great deal.

Stay safe and well and as always, shout if there is anything you need.

Becca

Becca Dove

Head of Family Support and Complex Families

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