

COVID Email Update 14 December 2020

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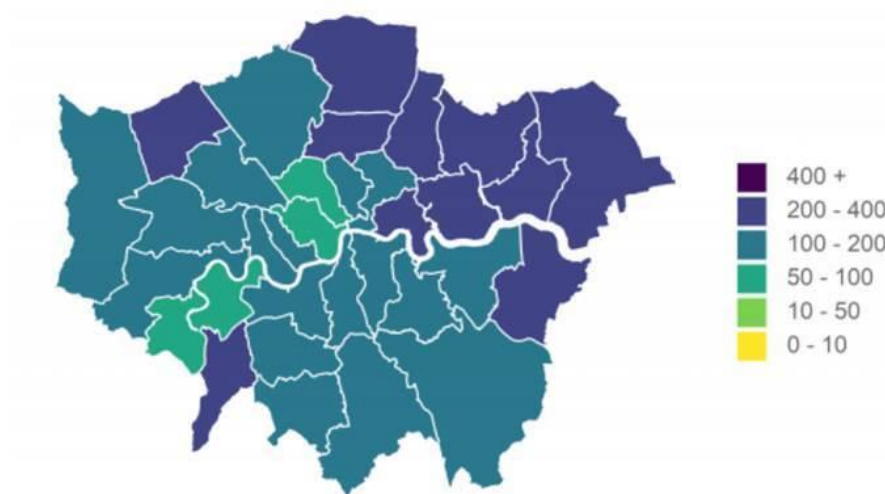
Good morning to you, I hope you and your families are all doing okay.

We are expecting an announcement by Wednesday about London's Tier for the next two weeks. You will be aware of concerns about rising case rates in some London boroughs, and whether this means London might move into Tier 3. As we talked about in our last whole service briefing, our work is exempt at all Tiers. BUT if there is any change this week, my first call will be to Public Health to get their advice in real time. If anything does need to change to our daily practice, I will call another whole service briefing.

Here is the overall infection rate in London:

Cases per 100,000 population per week

Week ending 05 December 2020



Source: PHE COVID-19 Dashboard
Graphic by GLA City Intelligence

And here is the current cases in Camden, taken from the national COVID data site this morning:

Cases in Camden ▾

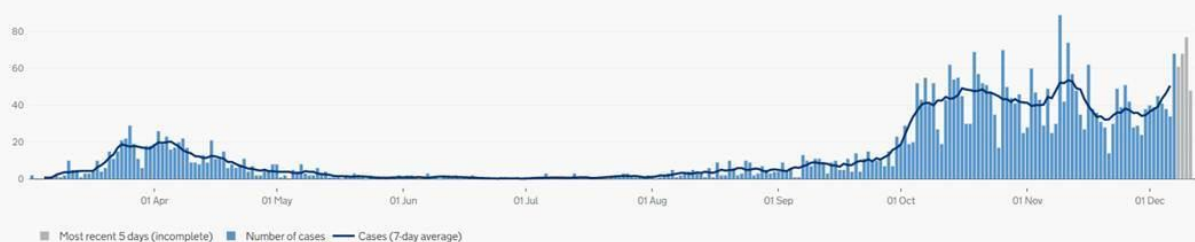
People tested positive

Daily	Total
73	4,181

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](#)



Updates for you this week:

Food Support for Families Over Christmas

The COVID Winter Support Programme for low income families starts this week. Schools will be distributing vouchers to children in receipt of free school meals. Families not receiving free school meals but in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support will receive vouchers by email or post. I am very pleased that children who are NRPF and young carers will also be supported by this programme.

The vouchers are £30 per child for the Christmas holidays and £15 per child for the February half term (to be distributed next year).

We also have our own stocks of Sainsburys and Morrisons gift cards at 5PS, and can order e-supermarket vouchers on the Welfare Assistance Fund. If you are working with a family who needs a supermarket voucher to get through Christmas, let your manager know this week.

Vaccinations Update

Last week I had conversations with Richard Elphick who is overseeing vaccination rollout to health and social care workers. I have identified with Richard that a) some workers who do face-to-face work in vulnerable people's homes may not be social care registered and b) that family workers often work in multi-generational households and with kinship carers who are often grandparents. Richard will keep me posted on progress this week.

There is a new Guidebook section on COVID vaccinations here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main>

Self-Isolation Period Reduced from 14 Days to 10 Days

From today, people who have come into contact with someone with COVID, or returning from abroad, will now need to self-isolate for 10 days and not 14 days. People who test positive for COVID already self-isolate for 10 days and this will continue.

You can find a new infographic about this 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>

Sending You a Christmas Gift – LAST CALL!

This is a last call to let me know if you'd like me to send a small Christmas gift in the post to you. If you haven't yet, **could you reply to this email just saying yes thats okay to send it to my home address or no I'd prefer you keep it for me at 5PS?** Parcels need to be sent by Thursday so that your gift makes it to you by Christmas!

Black Lives Matter – Frontline Practitioners Groups and New Creative Resources

A reminder that Adele and Kat from FIF and Anna from TT are running frontline practitioners groups for you to share your views, experiences and ideas about anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice. Please do sign up or contact Adele or Anna for more info.

There are also two new everyday resources on the Guidebook to explore race, culture and heritage. These use creative methods to explore our race stories. You can find them here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/resources-for-daily-practice/#main>

Christmas Football with Arsenal! Opportunity for Children Aged 8-18

Arsenal in the Community are offering free football sessions for children aged 8-18 from Kentish Town or Canteloves areas on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December, 10am – 12pm for the 8-13's, 1-3pm for 14-18's. Packed lunch and Premier League goody bag provided. All activities outdoor on the 3G pitch at Canteloves.

They are particularly keen to support children from low income households or who may be experiencing food poverty.

Gunnersaurus (sorry Spurs fans although you're top of the league so no complaints really) and Father Christmas will both be making an appearance! If you are working with boys or girls

who would enjoy this, please contact Deb Bush (on Outlook) asap as places are limited, first come first serve

New Camden Website to Find Food Support

Camden has launched a new website to help residents find food support easily and quickly. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/option-3-emergency-food-parcels/#main>

Barnados COVID Helpline for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Families

Barnados have introduced a helpline specifically for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children and families affected by or worried about COVID. The contact details are on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/covid-information-in-other-languages/#main>

Evolve Project for 16-24 Year Olds At Risk of Youth Violence

Evolve are a new IYSS service supporting 16-24 year olds affected by youth violence and exploitation. You can find information about the project on the Guidebook here (with thanks to Jo from TT for sharing) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/yos-duty-contact-details/#main>

Breakout Rooms Now Available On Teams

Teams now has the ability to have breakout rooms during meetings. This will be really useful for bigger team meetings or delivering training. There is training on Teams breakout rooms here (*“Facilitating Interactive Teams Meetings”* course): <https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/shareddigital/Pages/Skype-to-Teams.aspx> and there is a guide to Teams breakout rooms here https://lbcamden.sharepoint.com/:w/s/O365CL/EbOSm8941FJMsY-3jkr6KBkBFUKuq2Y_wnqA9rIVSMMNiQ?e=TSpgT0

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and anything you need. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 14 DECEMBER](#)

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>Black Lives Matter Resource Repository – New Resources Two new creative methods to explore race stories with children, families or with ourselves https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/black-lives-matter-resource-repository/resources-for-daily-practice/#main</p>	<p>Evolve Project Information about a new team supporting 16-24 year olds https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/yos-duty-contact-details/#main</p>	<p>Barnados COVID Helpline for Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised Groups https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/covid-information-in-other-languages/#main</p>
<p>COVID Vaccinations A new Guidebook section with links to NHS, Public Health and Government information and advice about the COVID vaccines https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-</p>	<p>New Camden Food Support Website A new website from Camden to search for local food support https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/option-3-</p>	

[government-information/vaccinations/#main](#)
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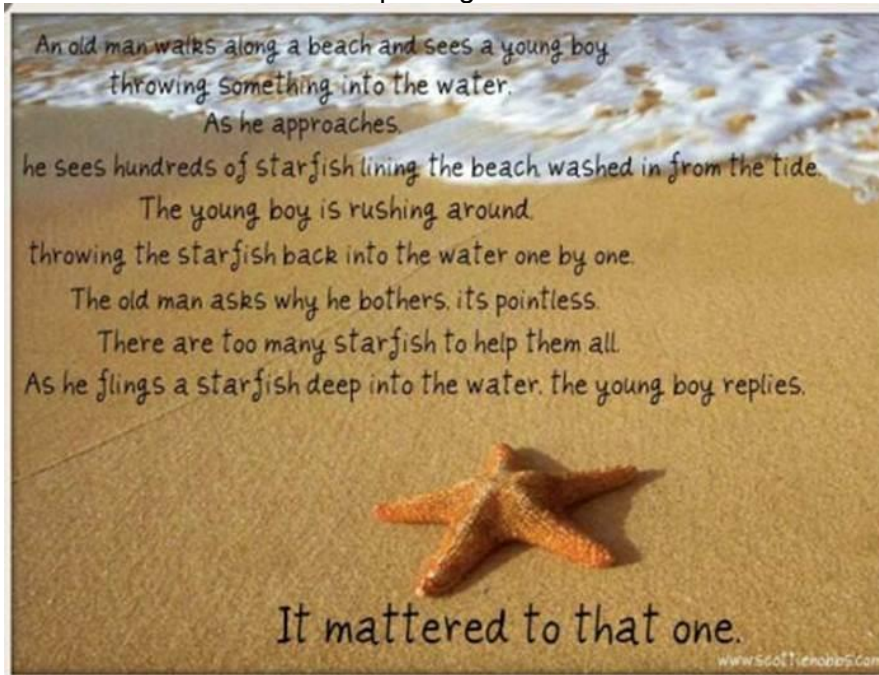
[emergency-food-parcels/#main](#)

We are now in week 39 of COVID, and our current capacity remains stable.

To finish on a final note about poverty. Last week, a deputy head rang every parent in his primary school to ask whether they needed any help. He was shocked at how much hidden poverty he uncovered, parents who hadn't told anyone because they are desperately trying to keep it together, to manage. His kindness led to tens of parents getting help.

We can all do something in our jobs to make a difference to poverty. The simple act of noticing and caring about a family's financial insecurity and its impact on their life is a step towards tackling it. Educating ourselves about ways to help alleviate poverty is another. Advocating for families who find it hard to navigate the system is another. The poverty proofing tool really is helpful, so if you haven't had a chance to have a look yet, click here <https://practice-supervisors.rip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Using-a-social-model-of-child-protection-in-supervision.pdf>

Your compassion is an antidote to the shame that poverty so often brings – as the saying goes “*shame dies when stories are told in safe places*”. One of the things that makes me most proud about our service is that we all strive to be the person we would want in our own lives if the tables were turned. Let's keep being that.



Stay safe and well.

Becca

Ps to whoever it was who commented in the weekly survey that a session with Headteachers would be good at the moment, you are spot on. We have a slot at the Primary School Heads and Secondary School Heads meetings in January, so I'll hold everything you said in mind and get those messages across. We're also meeting with the DSLs to have the same conversation.

Becca Dove
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