

## COVID Email Update 4 January 2021

A very happy new year to you all, I hope you and your families had some rest over the holidays.

We start 2021 in Tier 4 along with a growing number of the UK population. Secondary schools return to on-site learning is delayed to give more time to get onsite COVID testing of students in place, an enormous task for Camden's 10 secondary schools, 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges and CCFL. Camden primary schools, along with primaries across London and other parts of the country, are also closed for onsite learning. Many of us are once again juggling home learning, childcare and work. If this (very last minute) change is affecting you and your family, please do reach out to your line manager for help and support.

I was going to open today with reflecting on things I'm looking forward to in the next 3 months. But given we've all had another chaotic and often worrying few days, I'll start 2021 with a focus on hope. How important our ability to hold hope will be, for the families we help, for our service and for ourselves. To hold as true both the awful reality of COVID and, to quote Barack Obama, the possibility that something better awaits us if we can find the courage to reach for it.

In 2020, every part of the service made a difference to the life of a child. I don't pretend for one second that it was easy. But you did it. Let's see what we can do together in 2021, one step at a time, one day at a time, and holding hope as much as we can.

Updates for you this week:

### Information on Return To School

On 30 December, the Government announced changes to the dates when children will physically return to school for on-site learning. There is a summary below.

Camden primary schools now remain closed for onsite learning, along with Camden secondary schools. There is currently no confirmed date for on-site learning to resume, but DFE have said they will review it on 13 January. Secondary schools are staggering return of their year groups. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-advice-for-parents/#main>

Department for Education			
Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England			
Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Secondary / college exam years	Prioritise remote education, January exam students attend	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary - reception to Y6	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college	Some remote education	Remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

\* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.

Our advice to parents is to contact their child's school direct to confirm their local arrangements. It is possible this will change again, and I will get information to you as soon as I have it. Remember we have loan laptops available for children if needed.

### **New Laptops - For You!**

Starting 2021 on a positive, we are all being given new laptops. We each have a choice of a standard laptop or a hybrid laptop (that converts to a tablet). Both have pros and cons. You can see the two different models on the attached email and picture. You get to choose which one you want, and in the next 2 weeks your managers will be asking you to tell them your choice so we can submit it to the team ordering the new kit. I am hoping beyond hoping that this will help both our remote working and our work out in the community with families. Have a look at the attached, and start making your selection.

### **Remote Direct Work - Materials and Resources**

A reminder of some of the resources available to support virtual direct work with children, parents or families:

- *Conversation template* – this was gifted to us by the Family Partnership Model trainers at the Centre for Parent and Child Studies, and might be helpful for your shorter weekly virtual check-in conversations with families  
<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/2370/resilient-families-fpm-conversations-template.pdf>
- *Resilient Families online tools* – many of the RF worksheets and tools lend themselves well for virtual conversations, and you can share them onscreen or email them as a PDF in advance – see the 'tools' sections here  
<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/resilient-families-practice/>
- *Direct work kit bag* – this is now packed with ideas for doing remote direct or exploratory work with parents or children on a range of issues and topics, so well worth another look <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/direct-work-kit-bag/> - remember if you would like to buy creative resources to help with virtual direct work, we can order these online and have them sent to your home (or to family homes), just let Elaine Crouch know and she can buy online with the purchase card
- *Online direct work learning module with Dr Karen Treisman* - exploring how to make virtual work more creative and relational. More information here <https://safehandstinkingminds.thinkific.com/courses/an-intro-module-to-making-online-virtual-working-more-creative-and-relational-a-therapeutic-focus-but-applicable-to-wider-forums-such-as-meetings-and-trainings> . If you would like to do this module, please contact Elaine Crouch who can make the payment on our purchase card (£20 for the whole module).
- If there is anything else you need to support remote direct work that we haven't done yet or got yet, please do drop me a line or use the weekly survey.

### **NHS Low Income Scheme – Help with the Cost of Some NHS Services**

Families on low income or claiming benefits may be eligible for help with chargeable NHS services (for example dental costs, eyecare costs and prescription costs). Worth holding in mind for your poverty proofing work. More information about the NHS Low Income Scheme here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health/gp-surgeries/#main>

### **Free Sanitary Products Available Again in Childrens Centres and Libraries**

Tricky Period have again provided us with free sanitary products which families can collect from the 5 Childrens Centres or you can collect and deliver to a family. More information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health/free-sanitary-products/>

### Individual Risk Assessment Census

On 18 January, we will be doing a quick census of everyone's individual risk assessment to make sure we are following our policy of reviewing all risk assessments every 20 working days. This is really important to make sure we are keeping you as safe and well as possible. If you and your manager haven't reviewed your individual risk assessment in the last 20 working days, please do make time to do this within the next week and then every 20 working days after that.

### Pathways Finder Employment Project for 19-25 Year Olds At Risk of Youth Violence

Camden's Pathways Finder employment project is offering an individualised programme of learning, enterprise skills and employment opportunities to Camden residents aged 19 to 25, who are at risk of or involved in youth violence. Participants will be paid the London Living Wage for up to 6 months. More information here [Pathway Finders](#) and here (click link then scroll to bottom of the page) <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/#main> . If you have any questions, please contact [serrina.lobban@camden.gov.uk](mailto:serrina.lobban@camden.gov.uk)

### Rapid COVID Tests for Frontline Workers Without COVID Symptoms

A reminder as you start planning out your work for the next few weeks that you now have the option of a weekly lateral flow COVID test. This is a quick test for people who don't have COVID symptoms, with results in 45 minutes. There is more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/covid-testing-for-critical-workers/>

### Rapid COVID Test Centres Around the Country

There are now more quick lateral flow test centres opening across the country, so it may be possible for you to get a test closer to home. You can do a search on this link <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html> or find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/covid-testing-for-critical-workers/#main>

### New CBBC Resource for Children to Understand COVID Testing

Dr Xand and Dr Chris from Operation Ouch have launched a new website called Storicise for teachers (or family workers!) looking for fun ways to support school-age children through the impact of COVID-19. The site includes interactive videos and quizzes about COVID testing to help children learn more about it. You can find it here <https://www.storicise.com/>

### Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is now open to let us know about any emerging family needs, and anything you need [FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 4 JANUARY 2021](#)

### New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here

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

<b>NHS Low Income Scheme</b> Information about free NHS services for families on low income <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health/gp-surgeries/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/health/gp-surgeries/#main</a>	<b>Map of Camden</b> A new Guidebook section showing Camden's wards, Camden's neighbouring boroughs, and information about tube and bus services in the borough <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/map-of-camden/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/map-of-camden/</a>	<b>Information About Return to School After Christmas</b> Latest information on what dates schools will return to on-site learning after the Christmas holidays. <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-advice-for-parents/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-advice-for-parents/#main</a>
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**Find Rapid Lateral Flow Tests Outside Camden**

A link to a postcode checker to see if there is a lateral flow test centre closer to your home

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/covid-testing-for-critical-workers/#main>

**Pathway Finder Employment Project**

A new employment project for 19-25 year olds

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-jobs-and-benefits/finding-a-job/#main>

We are now in week 42 of COVID, and for the first time in the pandemic, we are experiencing some staff shortages through illness. Sending get well soon messages to all our staff currently poorly and wishing you a quick recovery. Your service managers are monitoring capacity very carefully, particularly in anticipation of the January spike in referrals, and will decide if, when and how we may need to bring in additional capacity.

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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