

## COVID Email Update 25 January 2021

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

As vaccination rollout continues across the UK, I promised to keep getting credible information to you about vaccination to help with your decision making, so here are some links to reading and webinars that might be helpful this week:

- Thread from the Vice President of the Association of Directors of Public Health Jim McManus – contains some useful graphics about what is immunity and vaccines, what is in a vaccine, information about each of the approved vaccines in the UK, and some short videos from the British Society of Immunology  
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1353047513020956672.html>
- The NHS Race and Health Observatory are holding their first webinar on Thursday 11 February 5-7pm. Here is a link to join the live sessions on Teams <https://t.co/niYbe8jpSd?amp=1>. The topic is Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People, COVID 19 and the Vaccine. You can find out more about the Race and Health Observatory here <https://www.nhsconfed.org/networks/nhs-race-and-health-observatory/who-we-are> and follow them [https://twitter.com/NHS\\_RHO](https://twitter.com/NHS_RHO) on social media here
- The Race and Health Observatory are also conducting a survey of frontline workers views on COVID vaccination and would particularly like to hear the views of workers from minority ethnic backgrounds. There is also an offer of a telephone interview with the researchers, so a good opportunity to make your views known. You can find the survey link here [https://lshtm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0pst28dLEW7z6dv](https://lshtm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pst28dLEW7z6dv)

Updates for you this week:

### **Emergency Baby Milk Formula During COVID**

Public Health have now put a pathway together to help work out how to get emergency baby milk formula to families during COVID (if the family has less than 48 hours supply of formula). You can find it in the Food section of the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/baby-food-formula-emergency-pathway/#main>

### **Lateral Flow Testing in Schools – SCHEME PAUSED**

The Government has now decided to pause the rollout of lateral flow testing in schools while they do further evaluation on its effectiveness. All daily testing of pupils, students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case is now paused. Schools will continue to test their staff regularly. You can read more about this here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-55733327>

### **Debt Free London Now Offering 24/7 Advice Helpline**

As the number of people in Camden experiencing financial hardship and debt crisis grows, Debt Free London have now started a 24/7 helpline for any Londoner struggling with debt. The number is 0800 808 5700 and you can find more information on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-welfare-and-other-advice/debt-free-london/>

### **Winter Food Support Grant Scheme – Arrangements for February Half Term**

You'll remember that Camden sent supermarket vouchers to low income families over the Christmas holidays. This will happen again at February half term. Vouchers will be sent out again via schools, email and direct mail again. More details as soon as I get them.

### **New Director Appointed in Childrens Social Care**

Not COVID related, but you may be aware that Anne Turner is retiring in a few months' time, and Rashida Baig, Head of Service in Croydon, has been appointed as her replacement. Incredibly big shoes to fill and we will miss Anne very much. Rashida is bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, and was awarded an OBE in 2020 for race equality and services to child and family social work. We're really looking forward to welcoming her to Camden. You can watch Rashida talking

about anti-racism in work with families here <https://practice-supervisors.rip.org.uk/landing-page/trauma-attuned-system/>

### **Webinar – Working with Families Who are Seeking Asylum and NRPF**

This promises to be an incredibly helpful and timely webinar with Abi Brunswick from Project 17, who will walk us through different immigration statuses, what NRPF is and what barriers it creates to accessing services and support, and what support is available for families who are NRPF including section 95, section 4 and section 17. Date tbc but will be second week in February.

### **Webinar – Introducing Virtual Interactive Platforms and Whiteboards**

A reminder that this week's webinar is later today (Monday) introducing virtual interactive platforms like Google Jamboards and Miro, and how they could be used in our virtual direct work with children and families. Calendar invite has been sent but if you need it again let me know.

### **Weekly Survey**

The weekly survey is now open to let us know about any emerging family needs, and anything you need [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 25 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>Getting Emergency Baby Milk During COVID</b> New pathway to get baby milk during COVID if a family has less than 48 hours supply <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/baby-food-formula-emergency-pathway/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/food/baby-food-formula-emergency-pathway/#main</a>	<b>24/7 Debt Support</b> Debt Free London now offering a 24/7 helpline throughout January <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-welfare-and-other-advice/debt-free-london/">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/legal-debt-welfare-and-other-advice/debt-free-london/</a>	<b>Vaccinations – More Information</b> New infographics about what is in a vaccine, how vaccinations and immunisation work and short videos about vaccination <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main</a>
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We are now in week 45 of COVID, and we are implementing our contingency plans to ensure we can manage both the rise in requests for help and our current staff shortages across all early help services in IEYS, YEH and us. January has been particularly tough for everyone, and I'll be writing to you all with a personal note early next week. Please do keep putting your health, your wellbeing and your family first. Nothing is more important.

To end this week with another short biography of a Black pioneer of family welfare work Forrester Blanchard Washington, whose social work and advocacy were dedicated to improving the lives of African Americans during the Great Depression and New Deal  
<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/social-work/washington-forrester-blanchard/>

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

Becca

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