

COVID Email Update 1 March 2021

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

You will have seen that the name of the young man who died at 5PS on 18 February has been released. His name was Darren Van Vuuren. Many of you knew Darren from his time as an information support officer with FIF some years ago and at Agar Childrens Centre before that. I have heard many wonderful stories about Darren and particularly his time at the Winch, and I can see how special he was to so many.

I am so very sorry for your loss, and sending my love and strength to all of you who will miss him dearly. An online book of condolence has been opened, which you can find and contribute to here <https://www.camden.gov.uk/web/condolences/darryn-van-vuuren> . The entries in there already say so much about how loved and respected Darren was.

Bereavement support is available to everyone at Camden, however you are grieving and whoever you are grieving for. Please do talk with your line manager if there is any additional help you feel you need, we are all here for you. Here is a link to the bereavement, grief and loss resources on the Guidebook, including Sudden, a charity who help when someone has died suddenly, or too soon in their life, because of a sudden medical reason (including COVID-19), or terminal illness, injuries or suicide <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/thinking-about-loss-and-bereavement/>

Updates for you this week:

Returning to Our Blended Visits Approach After Lockdown

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on 22 February of a roadmap and timetable for lifting lockdown restrictions, I spent last week preparing our plans for the service, including liaison with Public Health and other Heads of Service. I will be holding a whole service meeting on Thursday to brief you on our plans after lockdown restrictions begin to be lifted from 8 March. Calendar invite to follow.

Information about lockdown lifting is now on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main>

Priority Vaccination – Booking Now Through the National Booking System

We have heard from NCL that the national vaccination booking system has been made available to any eligible frontline health or social care worker. This system allows you to book your vaccination appointment at more locations and access a vaccine more quickly. If we have let you know you are eligible for priority vaccination, and you want to book your vaccination, please use the national booking system link on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main>

Priority Vaccination – Notifying Camden about Having the Vaccination

HR have introduced a new system for frontline workers eligible for priority vaccination to let the Council know when you have had it. If you are eligible for priority vaccination as a frontline worker, you should receive an email from covid-19queries@camden.gov.uk informing you what to do.

I have put a summary of what HR are asking on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main> . Remember that whilst HR are encouraging frontline staff eligible for priority vaccination to tell them when they've had it, it is not mandatory. You do not have to tell the Council if you do or don't have the vaccination, or if you choose to have it or choose not to have it, It is 100% your choice.

Schools Reopening – Face Coverings and Rapid COVID Tests for Pupils

The Government has announced that when school sites reopen to all pupils from 8 March, secondary school pupils will be asked to have twice-weekly COVID lateral flow tests. This will be done in school for the first 2-3 weeks, and then pupils will be provided with test kits to be done at home after that. Primary school pupils will not be asked to have the tests.

Public Health have produced a factsheet for parents about testing, and you can find it on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/covid-testing-face-coverings-in-schools/#main> Participation in this testing is voluntary and parents do not have to give their consent if they do not wish to.

The Government also announced that use of face coverings in secondary schools, higher education and further education will be extended for a limited period to all indoor environments - including classrooms - unless 2m social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in primary schools, although face coverings are now also recommended in early years and primary schools for staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. Participation in wearing face covering is mandatory in school except for any young person exempt from wearing face coverings.

Every school will be making its own arrangements for both face coverings and rapid COVID tests, so if parents need advice or information, please contact their child's school in the first instance.

Webinar – Psychological First Aid for Children and Young People

After today's Family Changemaker webinar, we have 2 week gap in our webinar series. Instead of attending a webinar in those two weeks, can I encourage everyone instead to do the new free Public Health England online Psychological First Aid for Children and Young People short course webinar. Launched last week, 60,000 professionals who work with children and young people have already signed up nationwide, and it's an excellent course. 3 hours in total which you can do in 1 hour slots if you like. You can find the link here <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-for-children-and-young-people>

Brandon Centre Parenting Programmes Start in March

Brandon Centre have confirmed 10 March as the start date for the next cohort of Love and Limits Parenting programme (for parents of children aged 12-16) and Parenting Your Child with ADHD parenting programme (for parents with children aged 5-12). Further details and link to make a referral on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/parenting-programmes/>

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable List Expanded

The Government have expanded the criteria for people who are extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID. This means a number of people who are now thought to be at risk of serious illness if they contract COVID have been added to the shielding list. This is based on a new COVID national risk assessment. You can find out about it here <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/risk-assessment/population> . People added to the list have received a letter.

If you are working for the first time with a person who is shielding, you can find lots of information about shielding 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/> This includes access to priority shopping delivery slots and local supports.

Do you Want to Be A VIG Practitioner?

We have an opportunity for up to 5 Family Early Help staff to train in video interactive guidance or VIG, a method used to support parents and children using video observations. VIG can be delivered virtually, and we have had some really successful VIG interventions during COVID. A leaflet about the training is attached.. There are only 5 places available, and these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are interested in training as a VIG practitioner, please contact your line manager.

Vaccination for Carers

The Government's priority list for vaccination now includes unpaid carers (sometimes called 'informal' carers) who are adults, and young carers aged 17 and 18 (priority group 6). If you are working with an informal carer, it is worth letting them know if they register with a GP as an unpaid/informal carer, their GP will contact them about vaccination. There is also a lot of support available for people who are caring for someone in Camden, and you can find more here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/grandparents-kinship-carers-carers-and-young-carers/carers/>

Parents Webinar – Young Peoples Mental Health

Kooth, the mental health support service for young people, is running webinars for parents about the service. You can find more information on the attached document, and here is a link to the booking form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedjUy9I7IBhW8MsW8KiHbMPqvQqS9uQIGvd4B2Dprlrb6KtQ/viewform>

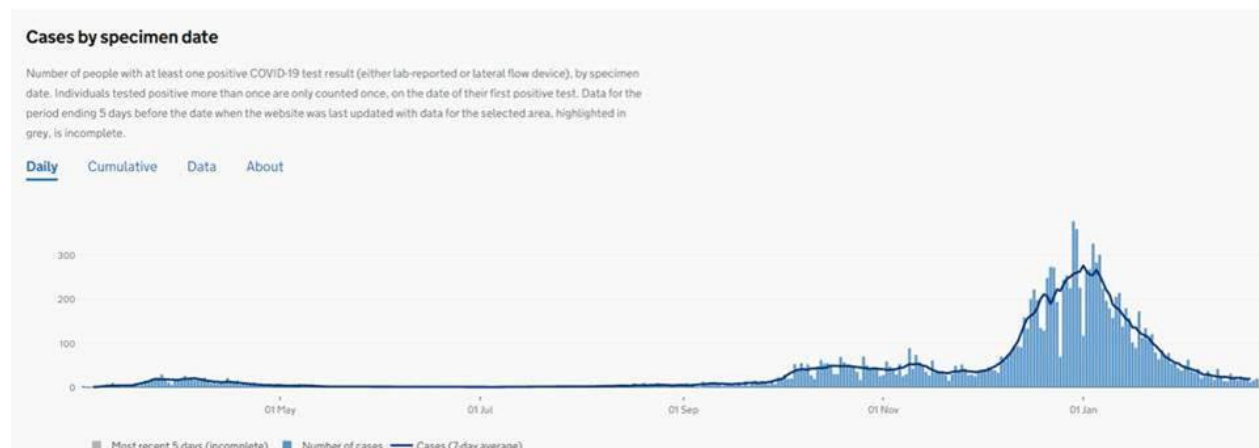
Camden COVID Data

Here is the latest COVID case rates for Camden. The Director of Camden and Islington Public Health Piers Simey has said this week that infection rates in Camden are now close to where they were in September 2020, largely due to lockdown and our communities following the social restrictions. However as Piers says, while it is great news that the infection rate has fallen, it could rapidly rise again so prevention measures remain critically important in the months ahead.

Cases in Camden ▾

People tested positive

Daily Total
4 13,656



Weekly Survey

This week's family needs survey, for you to raise any issues you're seeing and noticing for families and anything you might need yourself, is now open here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 1 MARCH 2021](#)

[SURVEY W/C 1 MARCH 2021](#)

Some updates on last weeks survey comments:

Period Poverty	I've heard back from Gill Morris who liaises with schools about period poverty and free sanitary products for all who need them. Gill is going to raise it with the Camden PSHE coordinators at their next meeting to see what more needs to be done that teaching about puberty is now compulsory in all schools as a result of Health Education becoming statutory last September, so this will help her and her team do a push on it. She thanks you for bringing this to her attention!
Supporting Parents with Learning Disability	Our next webinar will on this very subject with Professor Danielle Turney who has spent many years working on improving practice for families that include a parent with a learning disability. Date tbc but likely to be w/c 15 March 2021. I'll ask Danielle to give us reflections on

	contemporary practice and anything she has learned about supporting parents with a learning disability remotely.
Future webinar topics	I'm currently talking with Professor Matthew Gibson who researched shame in seeking help and a brilliant paper on it, so watch this space – will also follow up on your suggestions of children going missing, CSE and sexual health/family planning, all brilliant ideas

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>COVID Testing in Schools – Leaflet for Parents</p> <p>A new leaflet from Public Health for parents, explaining COVID lateral flow testing in schools https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/covid-testing-face-coverings-in-schools/#main</p>	<p>HR Request re Vaccination Notification</p> <p>Information from HR about telling them if/when you have the vaccination as a priority frontline worker https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/vaccinations/#main</p>	<p>Lifting Lockdown Information</p> <p>Updated information and an infographic explaining when and how the third lockdown will be lifted https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main</p>
<p>Priority Vaccination National Booking Link</p> <p>A link to booking your vaccination as a priority frontline worker – this is only for staff eligible under the priority worker programme https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/covid-nhs-and-government-information/social-distancing-government-guidance/#main</p>		

We are now in week 50 of COVID; our capacity is holding steady and will improve again as schools begin to restart classroom-based teaching (although that may lead to increased referrals – so we will monitor carefully). I know a lot of you are really missing your colleagues right now. Lockdown can be a lonely experience at the best of times, but even worse when many of your team mates are poorly and away from work. It will get better soon, and keep checking in with friends and your line manager. You're never on your own.

To end this week with a link to a biography of Thyra J Edwards, born in 1897 with grandparents who had escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, who went on to be a social worker, teacher, journalist and civil rights activist. Thyra believed social workers should advocate on behalf of disadvantaged populations and be able to demonstrate their ability to work with diverse populations <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/woman-suffrage/edwards-thyra-j-1897-1953/>

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

Becca

Becca Dove
 Head of Family Support and Complex Families
 Telephone: 020 7974 3603