

COVID Email Update 12 July 2021

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

No better way to start today's bulletin than by honouring these four exceptional young men – Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Raheem Sterling. Their courage and commitment in the Euros final last night was breath-taking, and they are astonishing talents with the brightest of futures ahead of them. Before he went to bed last night, my 8-year old said "*Rashford, Sancho and Saka are my heroes because they did their very best, they worked really hard and they do kind things for other people*".

This group of 26 players, their manager and their support staff have shown that it is entirely possible to have patriotism without nationalism, to have the diverse and inclusive values that reflect a modern, compassionate, collective and progressive country, and to do both with elegance and grace. That those boys are my son's heroes makes me hopeful for the future.

I know every one of us will be standing firm behind every player and against the vile, unforgivable racism that they have experienced in the last 12 hours. We stand firm not because of their performance on the pitch or their humanitarian endeavours off it. We stand firm because they are humans who deserve dignity and respect. We're here for you if you feel affected by the events of yesterday, or by anything you have seen, heard or experienced that harmed you. We stand firm beside each other too.



Updates for you this week:

Prime Ministers Announcement This Afternoon

We are expecting the Prime Minister to make an announcement later today about the final decision on lifting the last part of lockdown on 19 July. When I spoke to Public Health last week, they were awaiting the final guidance from the Government before re-issuing their local guidance. I will have more for you on this by Wednesday, when we will have a whole service briefing about next steps for us as a service.

Changes in Schools from 19 July

After the Prime Ministers announcement last Monday, the Secretary of State for Education made a further announcement for schools. The main points of the announcement were:

- 'Bubbles' will end, including classroom and year group bubbles for all children under 18
- Social distancing will no longer be necessary and schools will not need to stagger start and finish times
- The legal requirement for contacts of a positive case to self-isolate will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have been fully vaccinated, from 16 August
- From September, NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all educational settings, not the school or college. Those identified as a close contact will be advised to take a PCR test and only need to isolate if they test positive
- Early years children will only need to take a PCR test if someone in their household test positive.
- Protective measures, including practising good hygiene, ventilation and regular testing, will remain in place in all education settings until the end of September
- All school trips, drama, music and sporting activity will be able to resume in line with the relaxation of restrictions across society from 19 July
- There will be no restrictions on in-person teaching and learning in higher education settings from the autumn term

Camden Learning is recommending that schools continue with their current measures until the end of term on 23 July. If parents or children feel anxious or worried about lockdown lifting, please do support them to have discussions with their child's school or college.

New Programme in IEYS

Our friends in Early Years have now gone live with their new Parent-Child Psychological Support approach. It is open to all parents and carers with children aged 3 months to 18 months and provides an incredible level of support for new parents from a multi-disciplinary team. More information on the attached leaflet.

Summer in Camden Free Holiday Activities and Food Programme

A reminder that our families have priority booking on the Camden Holiday Activities and Food Programme until tomorrow. After that, they can still book but booking will also open to a wider range of families. The programme is for families with children eligible for free school meals. More info and booking link on the attached email.

Training – Young People, Gambling and Gaming

A reminder that YGAM are putting on a number of free training sessions specifically for family support and social work on supporting young people around gaming and gambling. Dates and booking links on the attached email, and big thanks to Megan for following this up.

Vaccination with No Appointment Necessary

Over the next week, there are many opportunities to get the COVID vaccine without an appointment in locations across Camden, including Fortune Green, West Hampstead, Kentish Town, Kilburn and Bloomsbury. More information on nearest vaccination clinics here camden.gov.uk/getting-the-vaccine. You don't need to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated and you won't be asked for proof of ID, address or immigration status.

Alternatively, you can also book a vaccine appointment by calling 119 for free or visiting nhs.uk/coronavirusvaccine. Camden residents who are not registered with a GP can complete the form at camden.gov.uk/form and anyone needing support to book an appointment can call Camden on 020 7974 4444 (option 9).

NCL Mental Health Crisis Line for Young People

The NCL Mental Health Crisis Line - 0800 151 0023 - is open to professionals, young people and families where young people need crisis support for mental health problems. This may be an option to young people currently presenting to local hospital A&E departments, if appropriate for their needs. There is also the possibility of contacting the CAMHS clinician if the young person has one. This information has been uploaded to the Guidebook here

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/keeping-children-emotionally-well/#main>

For other local mental health and wellbeing resources and services for children and young people, visit camdenrise.co.uk/emotional-wellbeing

'Welcome to Camden' Packs for Families in the Home Office COVID Hotels

There is now a fifth Home Office COVID contingency hotel in Camden for children and families arriving in the UK seeking sanctuary. To help ensure families feel welcome and supported from the minute they arrive, Welcome to Camden packs have been created by a group of Camden services and partners. There is a pack for each hotel. Each one contains a range of information about services and supports within 15 minutes of the hotel, along with details of services available to every Camden resident. You can find the packs on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/migrant-families-families-seeking-asylum/welcome-to-camden-packs/#main> .

Although the packs don't disclose the hotel location, we remain mindful of the risk of hate crime against the hotel residents, so please treat the packs as sensitive and only share them with hotel residents or partners who are supporting them.

Queries on Last Weeks Survey

A brilliant request from last week's survey for an easy-read version of our consent and information sharing documents for parents with a learning disability, and in other languages. I will definitely follow that up and get some translations and easy read versions prepared – more to follow and thank you for bringing this, I should have done this a long time ago.

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 12 JULY 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/>

Welcome to Camden Packs Five packs for residents of the Home Office COVID hotels in Camden, with information about services and supports close by https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/migrant-families-families-seeking-asylum/welcome-to-camden-packs/#main	Mental Health Crisis Line for Young People Information about NCL's mental health crisis line for any young person needing crisis support https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/keeping-families-emotionally-well/keeping-children-emotionally-well/#main	
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We are now in week 69 of COVID and our capacity continues to hold steady.

I'll end this week with a final reflection on the football. England performance coach Owen Eastwood was born in New Zealand and his father is half Maori. Eastwood drew on the indigenous wisdoms of whakapapa to help the team find its sense of belonging. Whakapapa and whanau underpin Family Group Conference, which was created by the Maori community as a response to institutional racism and oppression, and to find a way to work in harmony with Maori values and cultures.

Eastwood says "We try to signal to players that this is a place where you belong.... you are respected, this is a safe place, we want you to be yourself and express yourself.... it's about a sense of belonging to motivate us to create the story of us." You can read more about Eastwood's approach here <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jul/09/whakapapa>

[maori-belief-helping-england-find-team-spirit](#) and more about New Zealand's rich history and values here <https://teara.govt.nz/en>

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

Becca

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