

## COVID Email Update 1 November 2021

Good evening to you all, I hope you and your families are doing okay. Updates for you this week:

### Bubble Rotas Now Paused

In my email update of 27 September 2021, I set out that I would be looking again at our bubble rota in light of Corporate's decision to lift social distancing at 5PS. After listening carefully to feedback from your service managers following discussions in your teams, and reviewing my service risk assessment, I have decided to pause our bubble rotas with immediate effect.

Pausing the bubble rotas means you can come and go from 5PS as you need to, and plan your visits schedule according to what works best for you and the families you are helping. For front door staff, this means you are able to come into 5PS any day of any week, and seating is available for you on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor with MASH colleagues.

My rationale for this is that in addition to social distancing restrictions lifting at 5PS, we now have enough seats to accommodate everyone in our service which we didn't before. We've also returned to '*face-to-face visits as standard except in extraordinary or exceptional circumstances*' which means limiting your movements in and around Camden to bubble weeks feels unworkable.

However, we must continue to carry out all our mitigating safety measures including doing the pre-visit COVID checklist before every home visit, keeping our individual risk assessments updated and reviewed every 20 working days, following Public Health home visits guidance, and travelling off peak wherever possible

I will of course keep this under constant review as we move into the winter so that if we do need to revert back to our bubble rotas, we'll be ready for it. I know this is another change which may feel unsettling. Please do talk with your line manager if you feel anxious or worried, we'll do everything we can to support you.

### Flu Vaccine

In addition to the national flu vaccination programme, Camden provides a number of free flu vaccines for staff. These are prioritised for frontline health and social care workers who **are not** eligible for vaccination via the NHS and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To apply for a voucher, [complete this form](#) or phone 020 7974 1425. You may be eligible for a priority flu vaccine in any event, so please check the NHS flu vaccinations webpage here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

### Public Health PPE Guidance Updated

You may have seen from Essentials that Camden and Islington Public Health have updated their PPE guidance for staff working in resident's homes. The one change for us is:

- *When working in residents' homes, staff should change their Type IIR facemask in between visiting different homes. The previous guidance allowed the same mask to be worn across visits to multiple properties.*

Please do make sure you have sufficient stock of Type IIR face masks to be able to change your masks between visits. There is stock in our PPE store (in the FIF cupboard on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor at 5PS). Stock is checked once a fortnight, but if you can't find what you need please let me know.

The Government also updated its guidance for working in peoples homes on 4 October 2021. You can find all the updated guidance on working in peoples homes on the Guidebook here – please do read them so you're fully up to date <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main>

### Roundtable with DFE and the Independent Care Review – Want to Join?

We have two visits coming up, one from DFE and one from the independent care review. These visits include round tables for front line staff and managers to share their reflections on working in Camden. The days/times are:

- Friday 5 November, 2.30 – 3.30pm – DFE visit to learn more about front door and early help in Camden – at 5PS but virtual option also available
- Tuesday 9 November, 10.30 – 11.30am – independent care review visit to explore Camden’s practitioner experience of family support and social work and how we work together – at 5PS but virtual option also available

If you’d like to join either session, **please let me know by close of play Wednesday.**

### **Frontline Social Work Training - Opportunity**

Frontline is a two-year intensive social work training course leading to a social work qualification. CSSW is about to launch Frontline in Camden for the 2022 cohort and the opportunity to apply is available for family workers. With Frontline, you would become a student for a year, and would be employed as a newly qualified social worker in year 2. There is more information on the attached email from Sophie Kershaw, including a link to the Frontline application form.

### **Racial Justice and Equity Organising Committee – Come and Join**

We’ve just finished the latest meeting of our Committee, who are doing some fantastic deep work to help move us towards our 4 racial justice goals. We would really love some additional members to join small working groups for each of the 4 goals. If you’d like to come along (and we’d love to have you there), just drop me a line and I’ll send you the calendar invites. The commitment is 1x 1 hour meeting every 6 weeks, with up to 2 smaller meetings with your working group in between.

### **Become a Resilient Families Trainer – LAST CALL**

We’ve extended the deadline for applications to become a Resilient Families trainer to Monday 8 November. As a Resilient Families trainer, you’ll not only get to deliver this brilliant programme and make new connections with people from across Camden but gain additional qualifications, skills and experience to support your career aspirations. Expression of interest form is here [RESILIENT FAMILIES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM - CLICK HERE](#)

### **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 NOVEMBER 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>Latest Public Health Home Visits Guidance</b> Updated guidance on home visits from Camden and Islington Public Health <a href="https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main">https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/fscf-procedures-during-covid/face-to-face-visits-guidance-and-procedures/#main</a>		
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We are now in week 85 of COVID and our capacity is holding steady.

As ever, stay safe and well and shout me if there is anything you need.  
Becca