

16/07/2021

Lifting of COVID-19 restrictions

Dear parents and carers,

The government have recently announced that COVID-19 restrictions are due to end in England from Monday 19th July.

A number of changes have been announced including an end to the limit on the number of people you can meet socially. For schools and childcare settings, these changes mean it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups (bubbles) or to wear a face covering in communal areas. It also means, that when there is a positive case within your child's school or childcare setting, the bubble / group will no longer be sent home to self-isolate – only the very close contacts will be asked to self-isolate. Close contacts will be directly notified by NHS Track and Trace and told to self-isolate for 10 days and asked to arrange for a PCR test.

From **16th August 2021**, anyone under the age of 18 or anyone who has received both doses of a COVID-19 approved vaccine, will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone testing positive for COVID-19 – but they will need to arrange for a PCR test.

With these restrictions being lifted from Monday 19th July, it is imperative that we continue to exercise caution as we take this next step. We are therefore advising all schools and childcare settings in Haringey to **continue to follow infection control measures until the end of summer term** due to rising levels of COVID-19 infection within our borough. This means schools and childcare settings should continue to keep good hand hygiene, keep children and pupils in consistent groups, and continue to social distance when it is possible to do so.

I would like to encourage all school staff, secondary school-aged children, and their families to continue to be tested regularly using rapid lateral flow devices as this enables us to find more people with the virus and helps stop the spread. For pupils attending secondary school, this is particularly important as this is where we are seeing an increased spread of the virus.

Lateral flow devices should only be used by someone not displaying symptoms of COVID-19. If you or anyone in your household develop one or more symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, you are still required to self-isolate and arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible (as the self-isolation changes are not coming into effect until 16th August).

Finally, vaccination is an important tool to restrict the virus and its devastating effects. Within Haringey, many have now been vaccinated. For those yet to take up the offer of vaccination, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Two doses of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines offer very high levels of protection against severe disease from the

dominant Delta variant, and it is important to get both doses to gain maximum protection against new and existing variants. Across Haringey there are now walk-in vaccination sites where no appointment is needed. Please see here for further details:

<https://northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/my-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations-in-north-central-london/walk-in-vaccination-clinics/>.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' followed by a series of connected loops and a horizontal tail.

Dr Will Maimaris

Interim Director of Public Health