

To: Headteachers/Principals
Enfield Schools

My Ref: DSA/PN/da

Your Ref:

Date: 24th February 2022

Dear Headteachers,

Government have made changes to the way COVID is managed and I wanted to write to let you know about how these changes will impact schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

What are the key changes that are relevant to education settings in the government guidance?

As of 21st February

- Close contacts of people who have tested positive will no longer be asked to test daily for 7 days if fully vaccinated or self isolate for 10 days if unvaccinated.
- Removal of guidance for staff and students in mainstream education settings to undertake twice weekly testing. Staff and students in SEND settings are advised to continue.

As of 24th February

- There is no longer a legal requirement for people to self isolate if they test positive with COVID however, the government continue to strongly recommend that anyone who tests positive limits contact with others for at least 5 days, and stop isolation only once two negative lateral flow tests, 24 hours apart are conducted on days 5 and 6 or later.

The government will reduce availability of free lateral flow tests by the end of March. Schools should review and update their risk assessments, to assist in this the Schools Health and Safety Team will review the model risk assessments and they will be sent out to schools next week.

How will this affect pupils and staff?

We request that pupils and staff who test positive stay at home as above. Schools are able to refuse attendance if parents are uncooperative with a request for a COVID positive child to stay at home. Pupils and staff who are close contacts will no longer be asked to test for 7 days and those staff who are unvaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director People
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

Ⓜ If you need this document in another language or format contact the service using the details above.

Will there be continued need for COVID measures in school?

There will continue to be COVID cases within schools and therefore schools will need to use some measures to limit cases including asking pupils to learn remotely at home if they are unwell or test positive, ventilation and handwashing.

The DfE Helpline for education settings will be decommissioned from the 31st of March. However, the Local Authority will continue to support schools that are experiencing outbreaks.

If you have concern that COVID cases are rising within your setting please contact the Local Authority on corona.virus@enfield.gov.uk

When there are large numbers of staff who test positive within a school, measures that you are currently all familiar with will need to be introduced temporarily, this may include remote learning for some as a last resort especially if due to low staff capacity.

We ask schools to continue recording COVID absence among staff and pupils as it is important to be able to understand impact of COVID on the school community.

Vaccination (this will be covered in the next Headteachers Briefing on 4th March)

Children aged 5-11 years are to be included within the COVID vaccination programme.

The [NHS is currently offering](#) vaccines to at-risk children and those who live with immunosuppressed people in this age group. Parents and guardians of at risk 5 to 11 year olds should wait for the NHS to contact them, with local NHS teams already contacting those who are eligible.

On Wednesday 16 February, the government accepted [the advice](#) from the independent JCVI to make a non-urgent offer of COVID-19 vaccines to all children aged 5 to 11 in England. This will be through the national booking service rather than through our School Aged Vaccination Provider (Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS Trust).

The JCVI advice follows a thorough review by the UK's independent medicines regulator, the MHRA, which approved Pfizer's paediatric vaccine, as safe and effective for children aged 5 to 11.

Yours faithfully



Dudu Sher-Arami
Director of Public Health
London Borough of Enfield



Peter Nathan
Director of Education
London Borough of Enfield