

## COVID-19 Briefing Note: 24

1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear Head Teachers and Early Years Providers,

The week's update is as follows:

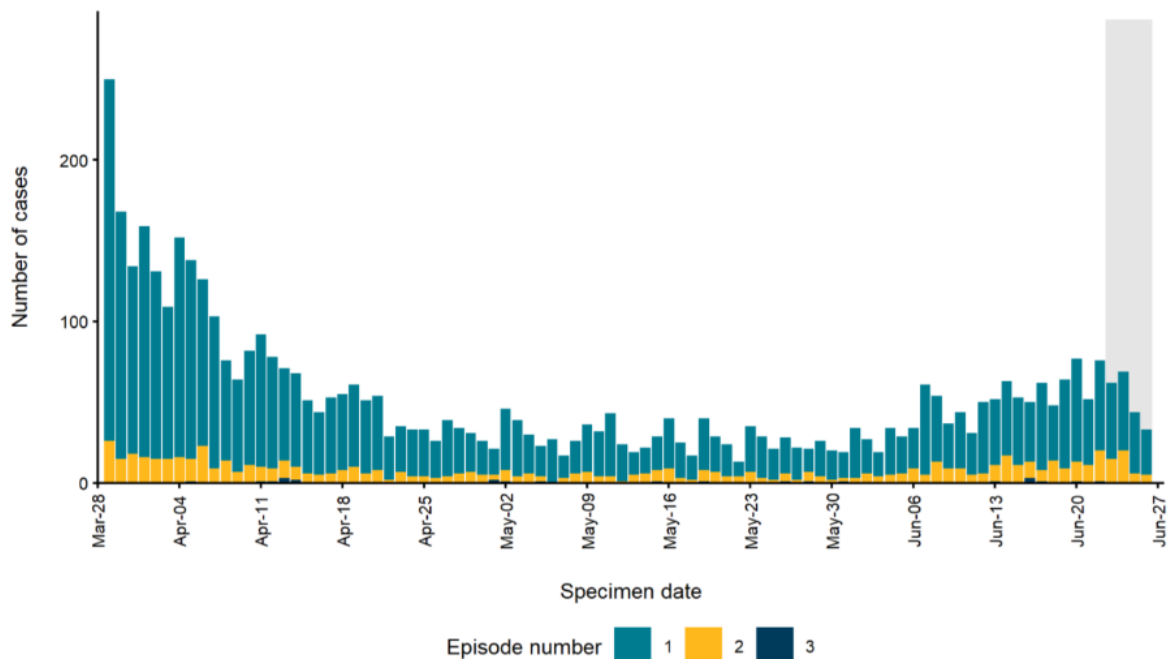
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**UPDATED: Current situation locally**

1. In the past 2 weeks (up until 23<sup>rd</sup> June), **784 cases** have been reported in Haringey and this is an increase on the previous fortnight. This is in line with an increasing trend across London and England. However, please note that the data is likely to be a large underestimate, because tests are not freely available anymore.
2. COVID-19 related hospital admissions have also begun to rise. As stated previously, it is hard to differentiate who is in hospital with COVID as the main cause, vs someone who has tested positive but is in hospital for another reason. We are continuing to monitor the situation.

Graph of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Haringey from 28 March 2022 to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022, by episode number. Four most recent days are provisional - indicated by a grey background

**Figure 4.** Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 by episode number for cases in Haringey from March 28, 2022 to June 26 2022, by specimen date. 4 most recent days are provisional - indicated by a grey background



*N.B. Episode number indicates whether it is a person’s first, second or third time of becoming infected with COVID-19*

3. The weekly rate of **reported** cases has increased from 142 per 100,000 to 169 per 100,000 in Haringey (25<sup>th</sup> June 2022).

- 5.6% of PCR tests carried out in Haringey are positive.
- 13% of cases between March 28<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> are second episodes, i.e. the second time a person has been infected.
- 0.4% of cases between March 28<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> are third episodes, i.e. the third time a person has been infected.

4. The 7-day rate of COVID-19 cases for each age group in Haringey (up until June 26<sup>th</sup>) is:

- 0-4 years old: 11 cases per 100,000
- 5-10 years old: 25 cases per 100,000
- 11-16 years old: 101 cases per 100,000
- 17-18 years old: 87 cases per 100,000

### **NEW: Covid cases increasing in the borough**

Covid-19 cases in Haringey are continuing to rise, particularly in the working age and older age groups. This is in line with the increases across London and England.

We are also seeing higher numbers of Covid cases being reported to us by schools.

As mentioned in last week's update, this increase is being driven by two new subvariants, BA.5 and BA.4, which are now the dominant variants. Both variants, particularly BA.5, are more transmissible than the original Omicron strain. The BA.5 variant is likely to become the dominant variant over the coming weeks.

So far, there is no evidence that Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 cause more severe illness than previous variants and in line with the Governments "Living with COVID" strategy, this will be treated as any other infection.

## **REMINDER: Infection control recommendations**

We would like to remind you of the basic infection control recommendations mentioned in last week's briefing and in headteacher meetings, which will help to minimise Covid-19 transmission within your school:

- Advise **children or young people** with a **positive COVID-19 test** result stay at home for **3 days** after the day they have taken their test.
- Any **staff** who have a **positive COVID-19 test result** should stay at home for **5 days** after the day they took the test.
- Advise all staff and students to follow the 'Living safely with COVID-19' and other [respiratory infections guidance](#).
- See the governments schools infection control guidance [here](#).

### What we can do to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections and protect those at highest risk.

1. If you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection, and a high temperature or feel unwell, try to stay at home or away from others – especially those who are elderly or vulnerable
2. *Ensure that any children and young people who have a high temperature and are unwell do not attend the education or childcare setting until they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.*
3. Let fresh air into classrooms, staff rooms and common rooms. **Continue to use CO<sub>2</sub> monitors and take action above 800ppm** (as per Briefing 22, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022).
4. Maximise outdoor time where possible, while ensuring students are protected from the sun and kept hydrated.
5. Practise good hygiene: Encourage all children with respiratory symptoms to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.
6. Ensure your Covid-19 vaccinations are up-to-date. Vaccinations continue to be an important tool to protect against severe Covid-19, and are helping to keep Covid ICU admissions and death at low levels.

## **NEW: Summer events**

As part of the living with COVID strategy, we are not placing any particular restrictions on summer events. However, as we know, COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are passed on more easily indoors. *If it is practical to do and the weather permits, we would recommend holding these events outdoors where possible. In particular, this should be considered if you have a significant outbreak of Covid-19 or other respiratory illness in your setting.*

## **NEW: Polio virus identified in sewage water**

As mentioned in the Headteachers' meetings last week, polio virus has been identified in a small number of sewage samples, although more than would usually be found. This suggests that there may be some level of transmission of the polio virus between people.

There haven't been any cases of polio diagnosed by doctors or reports of people developing any symptoms of polio.

*There are no actions that schools and early years settings need to take, other than encouraging parents to check that their children's vaccinations are up to date, and if not for parents to contact their GP to complete their child's vaccinations.*

More information on vaccinations can be found on the NHS website:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/)

If you have any questions or concerns about this item, please don't hesitate to contact the public health team

## **Reminder: Carbon dioxide (CO2) monitors**

Since September 2021, CO2 monitors should have been provided to all state-funded schools to reduce the transmission of Covid. The monitors enable staff to quickly identify areas with poor ventilation. You should have received roughly one monitor for every two teaching rooms. Please remember to:

- Rotate CO2 monitors around to different classrooms/areas on a regular basis
  - Take action when a monitor reads levels above 800ppm
- 
- If you have not received CO2 monitors please call the DfE helpline on 0370 000 2288, and inform the Haringey public health team via email.
  - If schools have any issues regarding the delivery or quality of their monitors, they should contact the supplier directly. The supplier's contact details should be in the initial email they sent out to you.

## **REMINDER: When to contact the Local Authority/ UK Health Security Agency**

You can contact the public health team at the Local Authority at any time you feel you would like to advice regarding COVID-19. If you have a significant number of Covid cases in your setting, please let us know.

In addition, you should contact your UKHSA HPT if there is:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection
- evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital

The local Health Protection Team contact details are as follows:

**UKHSA North East and North Central London Health Protection Team**

**necl.team@phe.gov.uk**

**Phone: 020 3837 7084 (option 0, then option 2)**

For more information on actions in the event of an outbreak or incident, see [chapter 4](#).

- Please see more information from the UKHSA here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-public-health-management-of-specific-infectious-diseases#respiratory-infections-including-coronavirus-covid-19>

## **REMINDER: Please complete the feedback form**

Thank you to all schools who filled in the feedback form regarding our COVID-19 response and support. There is still time if you have not yet completed this (link [here](#))

## **UPDATED: Latest contact details for support**

For support on confirmed cases or general advice, please contact DfE incident support helpline on 0800 046 8687 – open 8am to 6pm on weekdays.

### **Local Authority contacts**

Some of our staff are on annual leave over the next few weeks, if you have an enquiry that needs a rapid response, please email the whole team on: Alina.Phoolchund@haringey.gov.uk; Mohsin.Butt@haringey.gov.uk; Katy.Harker@haringey.gov.uk

You can also call **020 8489 3386**, which should direct you to a member of the Public Health team within working hours.

For emergencies outside of these times, or if you are not getting a response to an urgent query please call the Director of Public Health, Dr Will Maimaris on 07919 357421.