

Health Protection Briefing Note: 1

1st September 2022

Dear Head Teachers and Early Years Providers,

The week's update is as follows:

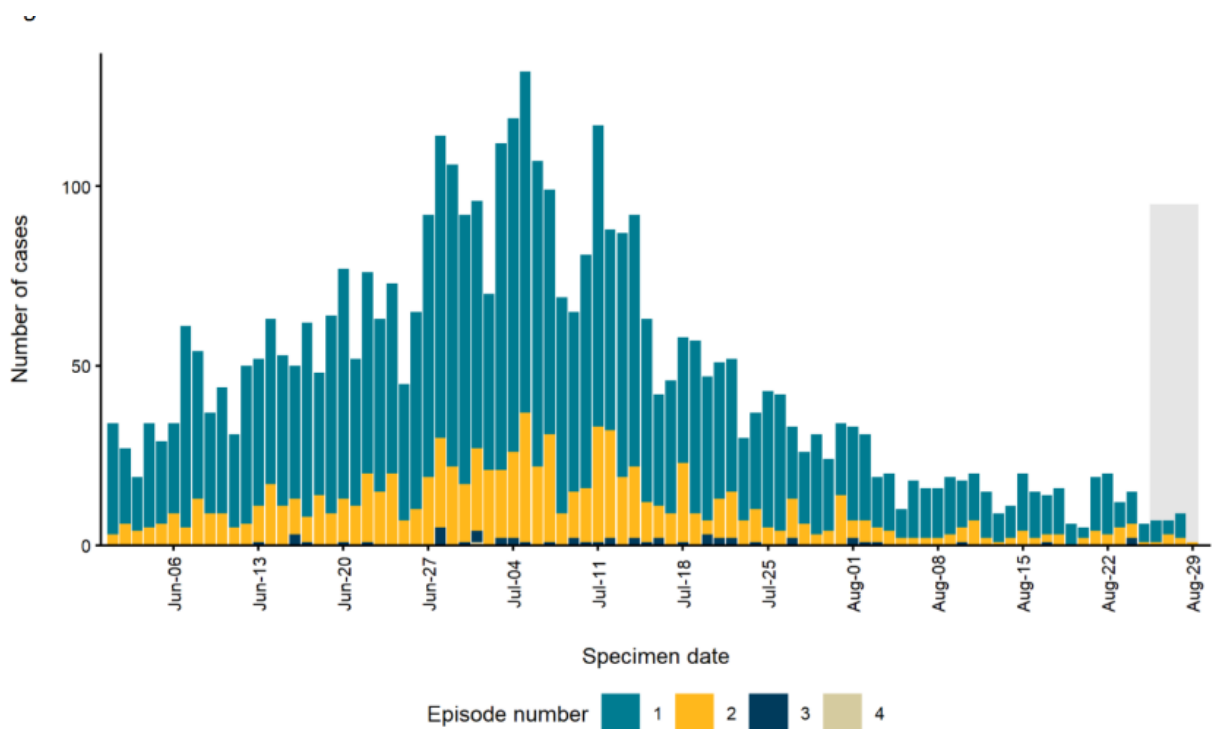
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Welcome back

I hope those of you who were off during the summer managed to get some well-earned rest. Welcome to the first school briefing of the 22/23 school year. This briefing will be expanded to talk not just about COVID-19 but also other health protection issues that may arise. This winter is likely to be tough for many families, with the cost-of-living crisis affecting children across the borough. We will keep you updated on the situation in relation to COVID-19 and other infections as the season progresses, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need our support.
 Katy

Current COVID-19 situation locally

1. SUMMARY. The good news is that reported cases are currently extremely low in the borough. Although testing had been stopped in the wider community, we were still getting a good indication of trends though testing done in hospitals and in adult social care. Most testing in adult social care has now been paused, however before this happened there was a clear downward trend. Hospital admissions are also low. A good source of information is now the ONS who complete weekly infection surveys across the UK, this can give us an indication of the rates.
2. Graph of **confirmed** COVID-19 cases in Haringey from 31st May 2022 to 29th August 2022, by episode number. Four most recent days are provisional - indicated by a grey background



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

3. The current case rate of **reported** cases in Haringey for the most recent two weeks (up to 25th August) is **74 per 100,000**, which is a decrease on the previous two-week period.
4. 3.6% of PCR tests carried out in Haringey are positive.
5. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) infection survey estimated that 2.2% of people in the UK would have tested positive for COVID in the week 10-16 August. This is a decrease on the previous week.

Polio vaccination campaign

As you will have seen in the news, traces of the polio virus have been detected in sewage samples in London. Polio is an infection caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system – it is rare but can be very serious for unvaccinated people.

No actual cases of polio or polio-like symptoms have been identified and the risk to the public is low.

The best way to protect children from polio virus is to make sure they are fully up to date with their vaccinations - both the booster dose and routine vaccination. We are writing a letter for you to please pass on to parents, which will be sent next week.

Parents will be contacted by the NHS to book a vaccination appointment for their child. The Vaccine has been safely used in millions of children and will give them a high level of protection from poliovirus.

You can find more information about polio and the vaccination programme at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/polio-booster-campaign-resources>

The NHS have launched a campaign to get all children aged 1 to 9 years in London to have a dose of polio vaccine now – whether it's an extra booster dose or just to catch up with their routine vaccinations.

Parents will be contacted by the NHS to book a vaccination appointment for their child. The Vaccine has been safely used in millions of children and will give them a high level of protection from poliovirus. There is also a walk-in clinic in Haringey, please see detail below:

Polio booster walk-in clinic

Hornsey Central Vaccination Centre
151 Park Road, London, N8 8JD

Open 7 days from 8am - 8pm

For children aged 6-9 years and up to date
with their routine childhood vaccinations



To find more information about Polio and the vaccination programme visit
www.haringey.gov.uk/polio-booster

Reminder of infection control measures

COVID-19, Influenza and other infections will likely rise in numbers as we head into winter. As the weather cools down it is vital to remember the basic infection control steps that schools can take to reduce transmission of infections.

- Let fresh air into classrooms, staff rooms and common rooms. **Continue to use CO₂ monitors and take action above 800ppm.**
- 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.
- 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.
- Practise good hygiene: Encourage children to wash their hands regularly, especially before eating. 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.

- Advise all staff and students to follow the 'Living safely with COVID-19' and other [respiratory infections guidance](#).
- See the government's schools infection control guidance [here](#).

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

We are no longer asking schools to report cases to us at the Public Health team. As the majority of people are no longer testing, this information is now unreliable.

You can contact the public health team at the Local Authority at any time you feel you would like to advice regarding COVID-19 or another infection. 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>

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

If you have an enquiry that needs a rapid response, please email the whole team on:

Katy.Harker@haringey.gov.uk, Patrick.Sykes@haringey.gov.uk, publichealth@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.