

To
The Head Teacher

Ealing Council
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London W5 2HL

020 8825 6832

19th November, 2021

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you for the incredible job you have been doing over the last 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. This work has helped in our efforts to control the virus and support local families and communities.

As winter approaches, this is a vital time to stay on top of COVID-19. I wanted to reiterate what schools are doing and should continue to do so to keep school communities safe this winter:

Follow public health guidance

- **Hands** – encourage staff and students to wash their hands regularly
- **Face** – wear a face covering when on public transport and around other people. Please note, face coverings are not required in school settings
- **Space** – encourage staff to keep a distance between themselves and others, where possible
- **Ventilation** – ensure adequate ventilation indoors
- **Cleaning** – ensure enhanced cleaning measures are followed

Get tested regularly

Staff and students (11+) are encouraged to get tested twice a week. Rapid testing kits are provided for staff and students at schools but can also be picked up at local pharmacies and centres.

More information: <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/covidtest>

If you have symptoms

If you have a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a lack of sense of smell/taste – you need to isolate and get tested immediately. PCR tests are available to take at home or at walk-in centres.

More information: <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/covidtest>

Say yes to the vaccine

The vaccine is the best way to stay safe against the virus. Uptake among teachers continues to improve, with resources available on EGfL to help schools support their staff. Refer to appendix 1 on how to get your jab.

Risk assessing for school events

Schools are advised to undertake a risk assessment prior to in-person events such as open days and parents' evenings. Schools have adapted to enable these events to go ahead through the use of ticketing, smaller groups, encouraging use of face coverings and adhering to baseline covid measures. Please note, schools that have reached DfE thresholds may not be able to go ahead with in-person events (depending on how they are run). This should be discussed with LCRC and the local authority Public Health/ Schools Health and Safety Team on a case-by-case basis.

You may be aware that local authorities in other regions, where the infection rates are higher, have had to reintroduce further measures such as face coverings in secondary schools and seating plans (currently outside of the standard DfE guidance). At the moment, Ealing is not in a position where we need to bring in stronger measures, however we are keeping this under review. Prior to the local authority implementing any such measures, head teacher representatives will be consulted.

Thank you for your support as we continue to work to keep Ealing safe.

Kind regards,



Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health, Ealing Council

Appendix 1 - Information on vaccinations

Vaccines offer the best protection from COVID-19. Anyone over the age of 16 can walk-up and get their first, second or booster vaccine at a number of testing sites and pharmacies across, Ealing, London and the UK.

In Ealing you can walk up to CP House, Uxbridge Road W5 5TL and get your vaccine.

No ID
No NHS number
No problem

Just walk up and get your jab.

Find your nearest vaccine centre at: <http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine>

Further information and next steps on the 12 to 15 year old vaccinations will be communicated in the coming weeks.

