

To: Headteachers of all schools

Ealing Council
Perceval House
14-16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

Tel 020 8825 5000

August 28th 2020

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back

I know you are all looking forward to welcoming back pupils and staff next week and have been doing an immense amount of work to plan for this. You all do a really important and fantastic job. We certainly are looking forward to you being fully open. We will continue to work with you over the next year which will no doubt have some challenges and hopefully many opportunities to celebrate successes and achievements too.

I am writing to you now to provide an update on the position in Ealing, the crucial role we all have in supporting key public health messages and to highlight changes to guidance that has been posted on [EGfL](#).

Ealing Borough Update

You may have read that the weekly infection rate in Ealing, as in other areas, has increased mainly amongst young adults of working age. The Council publishes a weekly update on the latest information comparing the rates in Ealing with other areas is available [HERE](#). This is not unexpected as testing capacity increases and the economy opens up.

Getting and keeping children in school this year is our key priority. With schools starting again in September, I am sure you appreciate that it is essential that we all continue to communicate key messages set out below to **staff, parents and your school community**.

- If your child, or anyone in your household, develops symptoms of Covid-19 (a fever, a new consistent cough or a loss of change in taste or smell), or is identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, **do not send your child to school**. [Stay at home](#) and arrange for anyone who has symptoms of Covid-19 to get a test by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. Please refer to the [flowchart for parents](#).

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Wear a [cloth face covering](#) on public transport and shops and crowded indoor settings
- [Keep your distance](#) from people who are outside your household or support bubble, limited social gatherings and avoid crowded places

Guidance for parents

We have published a leaflet for parents on returning to school on the Family Information Service (FIS) website. The leaflet and other resources from parents are available [HERE](#). If you haven't done so already, you may wish to publicise this to your school community. It will be available in six community languages though the English language version can be translated on-line.

Guidance for schools

We have updated guidance for schools where necessary on EGfL. We have just received information about 10 **Testing Kits** to be supplied to schools by PHE which should arrive in Ealing schools on 1st September and the details will be posted on EGfL as well.

A slide deck which summarises the main points has also been updated since the last update on 12th August and is available on [EGfL](#). The blue text shows those changes made to this version.

The main changes on the slides are:

- We have provided a link to the latest DfE advice on face coverings.
- We have provided a slide providing advice to schools to consider on the use of reusable cloth face coverings for staff and parents where social distancing amongst staff and parents is difficult to maintain in congested spaces.
- The flow chart on what schools need to do for suspected or confirmed cases has been updated. It includes the contact details of the Health Protection Team (London Coronavirus Response Cell) and Ealing's public health publichealth@ealing.gov.uk.
- Staffing guidance has been updated to reflect national and local guidance
- We have provided an update on SEN transport.
- information and links to Transport for London (TfL) resources and changes to bus timetables for those routes serving Ealing.
- Links to support schools with back to school messages from PHE, DfE, Dept of Transport and TfL.
- Provided a link to Ealing's EPS guidance on supporting children and young people who may have difficult transitions back to school.
- Added new section on after school and out of school settings.

We want to continue to build on the effective and successful working relationships we have with colleagues and we are meeting representatives of Heads on the Schools Consultative Group/ELP Board on Tuesday 8th September and fortnightly thereafter. If you do have concerns that affect schools in your area or sector, please do raise these through your representatives. For school specific issues please do not hesitate to contact the relevant officers in the first instance.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Finlay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'F'.

Judith Finlay
Executive Director Children, Adults and Public Health

Tel 020 8825 5426

email finlayj@ealing.gov.uk