



**Havering**  
LONDON BOROUGH

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Dear Parent / Carer

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### **Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

I hope you and your family are safe and well at this difficult time. Many of you continue to face significant challenges, and I thank you for your continued support to the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has paused the final step of the Government's coronavirus lockdown-easing roadmap by up to four weeks due to the emergence and rapid spread of the delta variant. This pause has affected plans for the activities that would typically happen in schools and early years settings during the Summer term.

Because schools and early years settings have to keep children in their existing bubbles or consistent groups, planned transition activities may now have to happen virtually, and sports days and end of year celebration/leaver events will operate very differently, or unfortunately be cancelled. In addition, spectators will not be allowed at these events, unless this can be done safely and in line with the risk assessment completed by the school or early years setting.

You will have seen the news that cases of Covid-19 have been increasing locally, and a growing number of schools and early years settings are reporting positive cases. This has meant in some instances, a class or a year group bubble being sent home to learn remotely and asked to self-isolate, so it has never been more important that you do your bit in reducing the risk of transmitting the virus.

We must all continue to abide by the measures put in place to ensure the safety of your child, the staff, and the wider community, and maintain face-to-face teaching as far as possible.

Whilst there will be noticeable differences in the way different schools implement some of the control measures based on their individual circumstances, the measures will include continuing with staggered start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave, maintaining existing groups or consistent bubbles, minimising contact between individuals, and maintaining social distancing wherever possible to reduce the risk of transmission.

Schools and early years settings will also continue to ensure that children and staff clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual, ensure good respiratory hygiene - the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, and continue with enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often.

If secondary schools have an outbreak, they may also reintroduce the wearing of face coverings by pupils in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained.

The delta variant is about 60% more transmissible and more likely to result in severe disease. But vaccination, with both doses, continues to provide excellent protection against severe illness. Anyone aged 18 and above is now eligible. We strongly recommend everyone eligible gets vaccinated and encourages family and friends to do likewise.

Every adult is encouraged to use a rapid lateral flow test twice weekly. Similarly, students in secondary school or college should also carry on testing at home, twice a week. Testing is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. Anyone testing positive should self-isolate immediately and get a confirmatory PCR test. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps us get a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks.

Any child with symptoms that might be Covid-19 must isolate at home immediately and get a PCR test as per the [Stay at Home Guidance](#). Any child developing Covid-19 symptoms during the day will be sent home immediately to self-isolate pending the results of a PCR test.

Our school and early years staff continue to work very hard to ensure that education is not disrupted. Together, we can protect against the many harms caused by the pandemic including the longer-term impact on the education, wellbeing and wider development of our children and young people.

Thank you for your help and continued support.

Kind regards,



**Mark Ansell**

Director of Public Health

