

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL – GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Message sent on behalf of Public Health

The UK government announced changes in our approach to supporting the population during the COVID-19 pandemic on the 21st February. Please see [here](#) for the latest guidance, with a summary of key changes on Page 22.

Ongoing infection control advice

Although the above changes have lifted some legal obligations, we continue to advise all Children and Young People (CYP) settings including Early Years, Schools and Universities to continue encouraging COVID-19 prevention behaviours.

Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- a) Getting vaccinated;
- b) Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside;
- c) Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high;
- d) Trying to stay at home if you are unwell;
- e) Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- f) Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

DfE Helpline Telephone 0800 046 8687

The DfE COVID-19 helpline is still available to support and answer questions relating to COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. DfE will continue to update the sector in the coming weeks on any further developments.

Outbreak Management

As your local Council Public Health team, we are here to support you. We are not implementing any immediate changes to our local arrangements for outbreak prevention control. We are anticipating further details from central government and will inform you of any local changes as soon as we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us on PublicHealth@southwark.gov.uk if you have any specific concerns or queries.

Testing

The DfE have produced some useful information about testing in schools, please see the attachment for further details about where and when asymptomatic testing is recommended. The attachment can also be found at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VDs5obas6OOzqc2KZ4gtUyOcgX9J3mhJ/view>