

19/08/2021

UPDATES ON VACCINATION AND SCHOOL TESTING

Dear parents, carers, staff and students,

As we begin to prepare for the return to schools and colleges in September, please see some important public health updates below:

Vaccinations for 16- and 17-year-olds

As you may know, the NHS is now inviting 16- and 17-year-olds to attend for their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination. We would strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to attend for their vaccine, as vaccination remains the most effective way to protect ourselves and our communities.

16- and 17-year-olds will be able to access a vaccination in the following ways:

- A link will be sent via text message to a website where they can book their appointment via a local service (such as a GP surgery or a walk-in centre). N.B. Those aged 16 and 17 cannot use the NHS adult online booking system, so must wait for their specific link if they wish to book an appointment.
- There [are also two walk-in vaccination centres](#) in the borough which offer vaccination to those aged 16-17 where appointment is not needed. These are:
 - Bounds Green Health Centre, 1A Gordon Road, N11 2PA
 - Lordship Lane Primary Care Centre, 239 Lordship Lane, N17 6AA
 - You can also put your postcode into the [NHS vaccination site finder](#) and find a site offering vaccination to those aged 16 or over.

Those aged 12 to 17 with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of severe COVID-19, or who live with an extremely vulnerable person will be also offered two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and will be invited in the same way as the 16 and 17-year-olds.

Testing before returning to school

- Before returning to school in September, all secondary school pupils should receive **2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart.** Settings may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the Government.
- Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Kind regards,



Dr Will Maimaris, Interim Director of Public Health