Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

20th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the summer holidays approaching we are writing to ask for your support with helping people to live safely with COVID-19. As you may be aware, COVID-19 infection rates have been rising in recent weeks. This is leading to significant pressure on our health services including the hospitals serving our area. The numbers of COVID-19 positive inpatients at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) have increased over this time leading to ward closures and additional precautions being re-introduced for example, face masks in clinical areas. Rising community transmission is affecting staffing with COVID-19 positive or symptomatic individuals unable to work in their usual setting.

We would like to ask that as we go into the summer months and you enjoy the good weather and events that are happening in our area that you continue to remain vigilant and follow advice for limiting transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

What can I do?

Get vaccinated.

Vaccines are the best defence we have against COVID-19 and other respiratory infections such as flu. They provide good protection against hospitalisation and death. They also reduce the risk of long-term symptoms. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and vaccine programmes are continuously monitored.

If you are eligible and you have not yet received your full course of a COVID-19 vaccine, you should get vaccinated. Booster doses significantly improve the protection offered by vaccines.

What are the benefits of vaccinating children?

Two doses of the coronavirus vaccines are being offered to children aged 5-15 to give them the best protection against COVID-19. 2 doses give stronger and longer-lasting protection against future COVID-19 variants. Vaccinating children can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection to your child and those around them, and helps to reduce transmission in schools. Those aged 16 and over and some children aged 12-15 are being offered 2 doses plus a booster dose. Additional spring booster doses are also available for those children aged 12-15 with a weakened immune system.

Vaccinating children now will offer protection for the autumn/winter period when infections are expected to rise again, and will complement the annual flu vaccination programme.

How do I find an appointment for myself and/or my child?

Find out which vaccinations are available for each age group by visiting the BSW CCG and clicking on 'Am I eligible for a booster vaccine?'. COVID-19 vaccinations can also be booked for children aged 5-17 and other age groups through the National Booking System

You can book an appointment or simply turn up as a "walk in" for a vaccine at Bath Racecourse. Other walk-in clinics are operating across B&NES. Please check the 'grab a jab' website to make sure the site is open on the day and which vaccinations are available as vaccines for children are not available at all sites.

You can still 'grab a cab' to your planned vaccination appointment.

Let fresh air in

Bringing fresh air into a room by opening a door or a window, even for a few minutes at a time, helps remove older stale air that could contain virus particles and reduces the chance of spreading infections.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

Following basic rules of good hygiene will help to protect you and others from COVID-19 as well as many other common infections. These include covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze and effective hand washing.

Face Coverings

Face coverings remain important in reducing transmission. Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces.

For further guidance please see the [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#) guidance.

What if I feel unwell or test positive for COVID-19?

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or school or carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you no longer feel unwell.

If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, it is very likely that you have COVID-19 even if you do not have any symptoms or receive a faint line. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have no symptoms. You should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took the test.

Children and young people

If children are unwell they should follow the guidance above regarding people with symptoms of a respiratory infection. It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can.

Further advice and guidance can be found in the [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19](#) guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Reynolds
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