

Public Health
222 Upper Street
London N1 1XR

www.islington.gov.uk

Friday 23 September 2022

Dear parent or carer,

Polio vaccination to protect your child

You may have seen or heard on the news recently that traces of the polio virus have been found in London's wastewater. Polio is a very serious infection, which can have potentially life-changing effects for those who catch it. In the worst cases, it can cause paralysis, limb damage and even death.

Children aged one to nine in London are urged to get an additional dose of the polio vaccine now. This vaccine is proven to be safe and effective, and offers the best possible protection against polio for your child.

Please check your child's health record (Red Book) to see if they are up to date with their [routine course of polio vaccination](#). I would then ask you to do one of two things:

- If your child is not up to date with their routine vaccinations, you should urgently get in touch with your GP for an appointment to get this vital protection against the polio virus and other diseases.
- If your child is up to date with their routine course, then the NHS have been getting in touch with parents to let you know how your child can get an additional dose.
 - The NHS have set up [polio vaccination clinics](#) where parents can bring their children aged 5 to 9 to get this additional dose.
 - If you have a child aged 1 to 4 who needs this additional dose, your GP will be in contact about booking this vaccination.
 - Alternatively, from 24 September, University College London Hospital will start offering vaccination appointments for 1 to 9 year olds (details are available via the link above).

The more children who get vaccinated, the better the chance we have of protecting our whole community from this virus.

Polio is a disease that has not been seen in this country for many decades. Through vaccination, we hope to be able to put this disease back into the history books.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEO'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Jonathan O'Sullivan

Director of Public Health
Islington Council

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