

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.897**  
**Released – 22 July 2021**

Thank you for your email dated 3 July 2021 requesting information regarding education and public health.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

**Original request**

***Are you able to confirm how you have effectively worked with schools & education settings to ensure COVID transmission rates are effectively managed?***

From the Trust's school nursing perspective, our response to deliver services differently helped prevent transmission to schools and keep levels lower without compromising our core offer of services.

We were able to keep connected without adding pressure to their bubbles by making proactive calls to offer individualised support where staff could ask questions. For any face to face contact for children and young people that was detrimental to their care, for example safeguarding, we contacted the schools to consider their risk assessment, made staff aware of our PPE requirements, explained Trust policy on PPE and Lateral Flow Testing and ensured that Government and Trust Guidance and Policy was sustained throughout the pandemic. We offered clinic appointments with full RA with our Estates Team to avoid going into school so that social distancing and PPE was fully adhered to. Process in place regarding cleaning and appointment times.

Our Single Point of Access remained fully functional throughout the pandemic so schools could contact between 8am and 6pm with any questions or concerns related to pupils at school.

We were able to offer schools the assurance that our staff had been offered protection as frontline healthcare workers being amongst the first to access the vaccine. We connected with our commissioning partners and receive weekly updates on school closures. Before each visit schools were contacted to ensure that safe spaces were available and how we could ensure our programmes could run efficiently without mixing bubbles and making sure children remained in their safe space.

- Proactive calls to all schools across Kent to ask if they had any concerns in relation to Covid19, a wellbeing check and signpost to website to explain alternative provision
- Updated Kent School Health website with direct link to Coronavirus (Covid19) NHS advice. Link shared with all schools through the letter and proactive calls.
- Resources on website, including "My Covid Capsule" attached for information

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

- Suspension of all face to face contacts for children to prevent transmission and adhere to Government Guidance with the exception of the most vulnerable and for safeguarding where appropriate
- Website with dedicated page that covered Covid19 topics, for example: Returning to school safely, supporting children with a LD to understand Covid19, emotional responses to Covid19 and social distancing for teenagers.
- Worked with schools to provide virtual rooms for students to be seen by a school nurse if appropriate to their care virtually
- Worked in partnership with schools to offer virtual delivery of Health Needs Assessments to ensure that children and young people could access the full range of services without the need for face to face contact
- All schools invited to attend on line training for chronic health conditions including Asthma, Epilepsy and Anaphylaxis to avoid the need to meet face to face but still able to fully support children with health needs
- We wrote to all Head Teachers across Kent in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools during the pandemic to explain how we planned to offer support differently in order to maintain government advice on keeping safe in relation to Covid 19. I have attached the information if it is required
- Update to website and links sent to schools: FAQ's for advice during the pandemic

[www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/support-for-schools/covid-19-fags-for-schools/](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/support-for-schools/covid-19-fags-for-schools/)

- Our Comms Team shared messages on hands, face and space on Social Media

***How have you worked with the Director of Education to ensure 'good practice' is seen across the board in the LA and all schools within the LA?***

We have not specifically worked with the Director of Education, however we have written to all Head Teachers throughout Kent and offered support throughout the pandemic, including proactive calls to all schools to ensure that all children and young people have access to our service even when the schools were closed under Government restriction.