

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

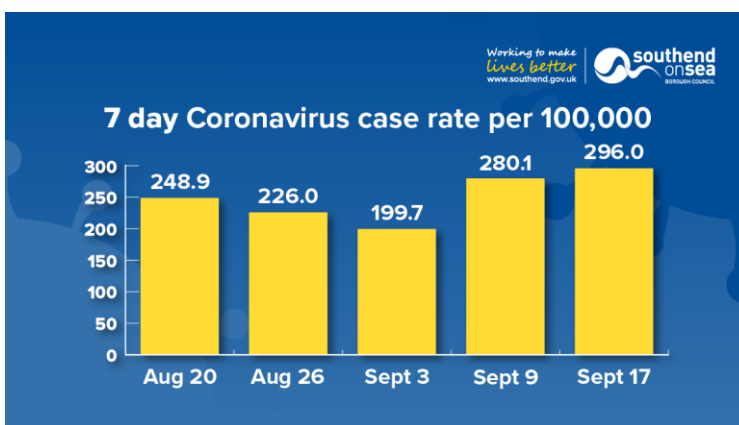
Email:

[KrishnaRamkhelawon@southend.gov.uk](mailto:KrishnaRamkhelawon@southend.gov.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, nationally children aged 12 to 15 are being offered the opportunity to have the Covid vaccine. I wanted to write to you to explain the local situation here in Southend-on-Sea to help you and your family make a decision.

As you know, there has been a national easing of restrictions but Covid has not gone away; **it is still with us**. The numbers of positive cases have been slowly creeping back up, as demonstrated on this graph:



This is why it is still important to keep testing, as testing helps us identify those who are not displaying symptoms but are transmitting the virus to others.

It is also the reason why we are encouraging those aged 12 to 15 to have their jab as soon as possible. You may have seen our #GrabTheJab campaign on social media, encouraging younger

people to return to the activities they love such as, nights out and seeing loved ones and friends, in the knowledge they are vaccinated and protected. In addition, for this age group, the benefits of vaccination will reduce serious ill-health and disruption to their education, as we continue to learn to live with this virus.


If you have questions about the vaccine, please visit: [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). I urge you to read the information carefully before reaching any decisions.

You can find out where to get the vaccine by visiting the [Essex Covid Vaccine website](#). You can also find out more about Covid and what advice and support services are in place, and where to access tests by visiting the [Council's website](#). There is also a link to the Government webpage where you can order home tests to be delivered directly to your door.

Just to reiterate, we need to continue the good work from last year and carry on playing our part to keep everyone safe. As well as washing hands regularly, using hand sanitiser, keeping distance wherever possible, ventilating indoor areas and wearing a face covering in crowded places, I am now advising you to support your children, aged 12 to 15, to get vaccinated.

Whatever you decide, remember that everyone's Covid experience and perception are different. So, please respect the decisions of other people and **be kind**.

Yours faithfully



Krishna Ramkhelawon  
Director of Public Health  
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

