

From: DfE information <dfe.information@notifications.service.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 February 2021 14:55

To: Janet Perry <janet.perry@tameside.gov.uk>

Subject: 3 February – Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children’s social care, schools and further education providers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Tameside Council. This email claims to contain information about Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please inspect the email carefully to verify this is not a phishing email before clicking any links or opening attachments. Please exercise caution. Do you trust the person? Does the email look genuine? Were you expecting the attachment?

This message is just a reminder to remain vigilant. If in any doubt, please contact the IT Service Desk or Cyber Security Officer.



This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government’s response to coronavirus (COVID-19). If you have colleagues who would like to receive this email directly, please ask them to use this [subscription form](#).

Information on the South African variant

The Department for Health and Social Care is offering testing to everyone aged 16 and over, even if they have been vaccinated. If you live in one of the affected areas, but have not been contacted and are unsure whether you should have a test, please visit your local authority website to find out more.

At present, [schools and colleges remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers](#), and nurseries remain open. There are no instructions for education or childcare settings to close in areas where new variants have been identified.

This situation is being closely monitored in case more restrictions are needed. Please check with your local authority for the latest

advice. Further information can be found in the [stay at home guidance for the national lockdown](#).

Grant conditions for rapid testing funding for schools and colleges

We have published [guidance on the conditions for grant funding for the national testing programme for schools and colleges](#). This guidance provides details of the funding that we are making available to schools and colleges in support of rapid testing, eligibility, and funding allocations.

This guidance relates to the funding allocation that schools and colleges will receive to support them with the costs associated with testing activity between 4 Jan 2021 and February half-term.

Supplier relief for schools

We have published [new guidance on supplier relief for schools](#). This guidance is aimed at helping maintained schools and academy trusts understand how they should support suppliers through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This guidance covers two important areas:

- helping to determine if you are a contracting authority – and therefore whether this guidance applies to you
- to provide you with some overarching principles and guidance on how you may choose to review and respond to supplier requests for support

This guidance is consistent with the advice previously issued to reflect [Procurement Policy Note 02/20](#) which expired on 30 June 2020 and [Procurement Policy Note 04/20](#) which expired on 31 October 2020.

Updated guidance on asymptomatic testing in specialist settings

We have updated our [guidance on mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings](#) to provide further information following the recent [statement made by Public Health England to pause daily contact testing in schools and colleges, except for those taking part in the evaluation](#).

This update also provides further guidance on the different approaches to testing for pupils and students who may require additional support or reasonable adjustments.

Updated guidance for children's social care services

We have updated our [guidance for children's social care services](#) to provide information on supporting vulnerable children for alternative provision schools and providers. We have also included further information regarding the continued period of suspension to Ofsted inspections until 31 March 2021.

Updated guidance for higher education institutions on the return of students in the spring term

We have updated our [guidance for higher education institutions on the return of students in the spring term](#) to reflect the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 27 January.

We have also provided information on asymptomatic testing for students and advice on fines for those attending house parties with 15 or more people. This guidance now also incorporates information on travel for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Please listen carefully to all of the available options before selecting the most appropriate option for your nursery, school, college or university.

Look up your unique organisation number (UON)

If you have not received your unique organisation number (UON) for ordering new coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits you can [look it up using your unique reference number \(URN\) or your UK provider reference number \(UKPRN\)](#) or by calling the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)