

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

Sent: 03 March 2021 14:04

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

Subject: 3 March – 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](#).

Workforce support for on-site testing in secondary schools, colleges and specialist settings

We continue to support secondary schools, colleges and specialist settings with the costs of delivering coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. The [workforce planning tool](#) sets out the number of staff required to deliver on-site testing, and indicates the level of funding you will be entitled to.

You can also hire external temporary staff to support on-site rapid testing. Further information on how to hire temporary staff through Crown Commercial Service can be found in the [how do I](#)

[buy guide](#) which is available on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

Further information on these support options, including voluntary support offers, can be found on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#) or by calling the Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.

School leadership support

We are offering time-limited, school-to-school recovery support to schools and academy trusts to help overcome the challenges faced due to, or exacerbated by, the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Support will be in the form of dedicated time with an experienced system leader for up to 5 days. Additional support to schools with particularly challenging needs may also be provided. 700 schools have already benefitted from the programme.

Support will be tailored to the individual needs of the school or academy trust and could include a focus on:

- planning for, and managing, the wider re-opening of schools
- support or planning with [remote education](#)
- how to use [catch-up funding](#) to address gaps in knowledge, and accessing the National Tutoring Programme
- lost leadership capacity due to coronavirus (COVID-19) circumstances
- support on overcoming the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on teaching and learning

Further information on the support available, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in the [guidance on school leadership support](#).

Recording non-attendance relating to coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to feedback from schools, [we have introduced a set of sub-codes](#) for use in school management information systems (MISs). These codes will enable you to record consistently in the attendance register where a pupil does not attend a session for reasons related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

You are not required to use these sub-codes, however, you may find them useful when generating data to submit through the educational settings status form and for your own monitoring purposes. If you have other systems in place for monitoring these cases, you can continue to use these.

MIS suppliers are implementing the set of sub-codes at their earliest convenience. You should contact your MIS support if you have any technical queries.

Delivery of face coverings to support contingency stock in secondary schools and colleges

In line with Public Health England advice, on Monday 22 February, we temporarily extended our policy on the use of face coverings in education as part of the system of controls.

We recommend that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

These measures will take effect from Monday 8 March and will be reviewed at Easter.

We expect that most staff, pupils, and students will already have access to face coverings from their wider use in society. However, we recommend that all settings have a small contingency stock of face coverings available if an individual has forgotten, lost or damaged their own.

To support the return to full attendance and ensure compliance with the system of controls, the Department of Health and Social Care is distributing 'Type IIR' masks to secondary schools and further education colleges. This supply is to be used as a contingency stock.

You should receive a delivery of between 5,000 and 7,500 units by Friday 12 March. In the coming weeks, you may receive further stock depending on the size of your secondary school or college and your requirement for contingency face covering stock. We estimate that this stock should be sufficient to cover your contingency stock until at least the Easter holidays.

These face coverings are being provided by the Department of Health and Social Care at no cost to your setting. They cannot accept any returns for these items.

If you have any queries or complaints on delivery or missing items, please contact the Department of Health and Social Care personal protective equipment (PPE) helpline (provided by UNIPART) on 0800 876 6802, identifying yourself as an education setting. Alternatively, you can email dfeppequeries@unipart.com and your query will be handled by the helpline team.

Further information on the use of [face coverings in education](#) can be found in our guidance.

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](#)