

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

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

Subject: 5 January – 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)

National lockdown now in force

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced a [new national lockdown](#).

During the period of national lockdown, schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to [vulnerable children and young people](#) and the children of [critical workers](#) only. All other children and students will learn remotely until February half term.

Higher education provision will remain online until mid-February for all except future critical worker courses.

During the period of national lockdown, childminders and childminder agencies can continue to allow children to attend as normal, except for school-aged children. Childminders caring for school-aged children (including reception children) should only

open for children who are eligible for on-site school attendance including [vulnerable children](#) and children of [critical workers](#).

In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible or fair for all exams this summer to go ahead as planned. The Secretary of State for Education will therefore work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements after consultation with the sector.

Our detailed guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak will be updated shortly to reflect this position and will be shared with you in our daily sector email.

Vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs)

In light of the evolving public health measures, schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams that are due to take place in January, where they judge it right to do so.

We understand this is a difficult time but we want to support schools and colleges whose students have worked hard to prepare for assessments and exams where necessary. This may be particularly important for VTQs which require a 'license to practice' which can only be fulfilled through practical assessment, such as an electrician.

Schools and colleges have already implemented extensive protective measures to make them as safe as possible. We will continue to work with Ofqual, awarding organisations and other stakeholders to discuss the next steps and provide more detail on the way forward, including ensuring other students have a way to progress with as little disruption as possible.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers who can attend school and college

During the period of national lockdown, schools and colleges should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is [listed as a critical worker](#) are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers.

Schools and colleges should speak to parents and carers to identify who requires a school place. If it proves necessary, you can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip.

The critical worker list has been updated to include new workforces whose work is critical following the end of the EU transition period. It is important these people are also identified as critical workers and their children can attend the education setting. This change will see a small increase in the overall number of critical workers.

Trainee teachers are critical workers and can continue their placements in schools

Initial teacher training (ITT) trainees are [critical workers](#). This means they can continue to go into their placement school throughout the national lockdown to support the teaching of vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. Trainees who continue to go into their host school should be offered coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in the same way as wider school staff. Trainees can also support the provision of remote education.

Get help with technology

We are providing laptops and tablets to schools to support remote education. All secondary schools have been invited to order through the [Get help with technology service](#).

We will invite primary schools to order over the coming weeks, starting with the most disadvantaged areas in England. We will contact each school by email as soon as they can order.

Most orders will be delivered within 2 working days of an order being placed, and we aim to deliver all within 5 working days. We are also providing [internet connections](#) where they are needed.

If you do not already have access to a digital education platform (Google for Education or Microsoft 365 for Education), we can help you set one up for free. Find out more about the [funding and support available to set up a digital education platform](#).

The Government will be providing further support to schools for remote education shortly.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing

The coronavirus (COVID-19) testing programme should be continued to enable weekly testing for staff and daily close contact testing for those staff and pupils attending secondary schools and colleges. This programme also allows schools and colleges to test pupils on return.

Register a team leader for your secondary school or college rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) test site

Team leaders are responsible for the overall on-site operations at the test site. Secondary schools and colleges will need at least one team leader to run a test site. We recommend that each test

site has 2 team leaders as this will ensure that cover is available if someone is ill.

Please complete the registration form to [register a team leader](#). You can only register one team leader at a time using the registration form. To register multiple team leaders, please complete the form as many times as needed.

Team leaders will need to be registered before you can begin testing.

Delivery of lateral flow test kits

All schools with secondary-age pupils, including independent schools, special schools, alternative provision, sixth forms and further education colleges, will receive an initial delivery of lateral flow device test kits to support asymptomatic testing from the start of the spring term.

If you have not received your initial delivery or have missing or damaged items, please complete the [contact us form](#). You will need the URN for your school or college to complete this form.

This form can also be used to report issues related to asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges that cannot be resolved by the published guidance or by calling the DfE coronavirus helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 7.

We have uploaded plans for the delivery of test kits to all schools and colleges onto the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

This plan contains details of what will be in each delivery, and when you should expect to receive deliveries from Brakes and Bidfood this week. It is essential that there is someone available who can accept the deliveries when they arrive. Please do not reject any deliveries.

Pausing of the educational settings status form

From tomorrow, schools and colleges do not need to complete the educational setting status form.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, we are updating the educational setting status form to reflect the new position.

We will provide a further update shortly on when schools and colleges should resume completing this form.

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.