

This is your 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](#).

Ordering testing kits for private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries and upcoming deliveries on Thursday 6 May, Friday 7 May or Monday 10 May

The test kit supply process for PVI nurseries has now changed. We have introduced a new online system for ordering test kits for testing at home. You are now able to regularly re-order test kits and better manage stock levels and deliveries to your nursery.

Your Unique Organisation Number (UON) is needed to place orders for test kits, using the new online ordering system. You should have received a separate welcome email containing your UON. You can also find your UON using the [unique organisation number lookup form](#). In order to use the UON lookup website, please enter your URN in the organisation ID field. If your URN is not prefixed with EY (for example EY123456), please add YE as a prefix to your URN (for example YE123456).

If you operate more than one nursery, you will receive a UON for each nursery. This will allow you to order test kits for each individual nursery.

Where an individual nursery is registered with Ofsted with more than one URN, you may also receive more than one UON. In this scenario, nurseries are advised to use the UON associated with their most recently registered URN.

Please note that PVI nurseries will automatically receive a delivery of test kits on Thursday 6 May, Friday 7 May or Monday 10 May. This will be the final automatic delivery and will provide

you with sufficient test kits to last until the end of May. In the unlikely event that you have a significant stock of self-test kits, you do have the option to reject your next delivery. After this you will need to use the new ordering system to place an order to receive further test kits.

You can order your test kit supplies using the [order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests for your organisation online form](#). For further information on how to place an order, please refer to the ordering guidance available on the [primary schools and nurseries document sharing platform](#).

Elective Home Education (EHE) – guidance for schools, local authorities and parents

Over the last twelve months of the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools have seen an increase in notifications from parents or carers about EHE. This has resulted in [38%](#) more children being home educated across the country in 2020 compared to the previous year, which is in part due to parents or children having health concerns related to COVID-19. DfE has developed [operational COVID-19 guidance for schools, parents and carers](#) to help ensure safe education and mitigate against risks. We encourage dialogue between parents, carers and education providers should concerns remain.

Most home educated children will have a positive learning experience, but this is not the case for all, and EHE can mean some children are less visible to the services there to keep them safe and supported. An [education in the media blog](#) for parents, carers and [EHE guidance for local authorities](#) (LA) are available. The guidance sets out the roles and responsibilities of schools and LAs, and the powers available to engage with parents and carers considering EHE. All schools and LAs should be familiar with this guidance.

Where a parent or carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school to home educate, we recommend that LAs, schools, and other key professionals work together to coordinate a meeting with parents or carers where possible. Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made. This is to ensure the parents or carers have considered what is in the best interests of each individual child. This is particularly important where a child has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is vulnerable, or has a social worker.

Where parents have removed children from their school since September, we encourage schools to check that their LA has been informed. This will assist LAs in making sure they fulfil their duties and ensure that information is shared with children's social care where necessary.

We do understand that some parents may change their mind about home educating their child, perhaps as the pandemic eases. If a parent wants to re-admit their child, then a school's normal [process for in-year school admissions](#) should apply. An application can be made at any school, at any time.

Educational visits from Monday 17 May

Schools and colleges will be aware that subject to Step 3 of the government's [Roadmap out of Lockdown](#) progressing as planned, residential educational visits can resume from 17 May. The [schools guidance](#), [further education guidance](#), and [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\) accommodation guidance](#) will be updated next week (if Step 3 progresses as planned) and will provide guidance as to what safe residential educational visits should look like at Step 3.

Summer Schools webinar and sign-up

The Summer Schools team is running an information session to tell you more about the 2021 summer schools programme and to

answer any questions, on Wednesday 12 May at 4pm for one hour. Schools can [join the webinar here](#).

Schools should access their [funding allocation](#) and [sign up for the programme](#) to indicate they intend to run a summer school. Sign-up is open until 23:59 on Friday 7 May and the process takes no more than a couple of minutes.

Further information is available in our [guidance on summer schools](#) – please contact the team at Learning.RECOVERY@education.gov.uk if you have any questions.

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The Department for Education COVID-19 helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about 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 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.

Private, voluntary and independent nurseries do not need a UON.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the 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](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

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You will continue to receive this daily email if you have supplied your contact information as part of your formal Department for Education establishment record (for example, in get information about schools) or you are registered as a team leader in the Test and Trace service.

If your contact information is not held formally by us, you can unsubscribe using this [unsubscribe form](#).

