

From: DfE information <dfe.information@notifications.service.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 January 2021 15:13
To: Janet Perry <janet.perry@tameside.gov.uk>
Subject: 8 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).

Guidance for early years and childcare settings during the national lockdown

We have published new guidance on how the national lockdown impacts [early years and childcare settings in England](#).

It remains very important for children to attend early years settings to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and carers.

Early years provision should continue to remain open and continue to allow all children to attend full time or their usual timetable hours. This includes early years registered nurseries and childminders, maintained nursery schools, as well as nursery classes in schools and other pre-reception provision on school sites. Only vulnerable children and children of [critical workers](#) should attend on-site reception classes.

Childminders should 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 vulnerable children and the children of [critical workers](#).

Nannies will be able to continue to provide services, including in the home.

Guidance on restricting attendance at school during the national lockdown

Yesterday we published [guidance for schools in England](#) on restricting attendance at school during the national lockdown.

Primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of [critical workers](#) only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings can continue to offer face-to-face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should not attend and should learn remotely until February half-term. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

Guidance on attendance at further education colleges during the national lockdown

We have published new [guidance for further education and skills providers in England](#) with information on how students of all ages can benefit from their education and training during the national lockdown.

For most students, further education colleges have closed for face-to-face education until February half term. Further education

colleges will remain open to vulnerable young people and the children of [critical workers](#).

All other students will learn remotely until at least February half term.

Guidance for children's social care services during the national lockdown

We have updated our [guidance for children's social care services](#) to provide information for local authorities and their partners on how to support and protect vulnerable children during the national lockdown. This update includes information on:

- support for foster families
- access to respite care
- short break services
- restrictions on visitors and gatherings in residential settings
- mental health of looked-after children and care leavers

Guidance on providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

We have updated our [guidance on providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January 2021 confirming a new national lockdown, training providers, employers and EPAOs should ensure that training and assessment takes place remotely wherever possible. However, face-to-face training and assessment can continue for some apprentices in colleges and training providers' premises, in COVID-secure assessment centres, or in employers' COVID-secure settings.

This guidance also provides details of the flexibility that we have put in place, that enables apprentices to take their end-point assessment (EPA) ahead of undertaking and receiving the results for their functional skills qualification.

Guidance for holiday or after-school clubs and other out of school settings

We have updated our [guidance for providers of holiday or after-school clubs and other out of school settings](#) to include information on who should attend out-of-school settings during the national lockdown, staff to child ratios and information on clinically extremely vulnerable staff.

We have also updated our [guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings](#) to include information on who should attend after-school clubs and out-of-school settings in line with new national lockdown restrictions.

Educational settings status form

From next week, schools and colleges will be asked to resume completing the daily [educational setting status form](#).

We are currently making changes to the educational setting status form to reflect the position on attendance of pupils due to the national lockdown.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on how to complete the educational setting status form](#).

Rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in secondary schools and colleges

Secondary schools have now received LFD test kits and many schools have now started testing. Rapid testing helps identify

those asymptomatic cases that might otherwise not be detected, causing the virus to spread further.

Secondary schools should now offer:

- initial testing of vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are on school and college sites (two tests, three to five days apart)
- weekly testing of staff who are on school and college sites
- daily testing of close contacts of positive cases in schools and college as an alternative to self-isolation, reducing disruption in schools and colleges. Staff, pupils and students who are on site can take daily LFD tests for seven days. As long as their results are negative, they will be able to continue to access school as usual.

The military can offer support on setting up the provision and give advice both virtually and on the ground. To request support, please contact the DfE coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline.

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. 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 start testing. We will add team leaders to the list of people receiving this daily email.

Further information, guidance and resources to support rapid testing can be found on the schools and colleges document sharing platform.

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](#)