

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

Sent: 10 March 2021 14:30

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

Subject: 10 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](#).

Free school meals in schools

Now that pupils have returned to face-to-face teaching, all children should be able to access a nutritious meal at school. These meals should be free to those who are eligible for free school meals. Where pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are required to stay at home, you should work with your catering team or food provider to offer good quality lunch parcels.

To support schools during this period, we will continue to provide an additional £3.50 per lunch parcel per week until the start of the Easter holidays. The claims window for these costs will open in April. Claims need to be based on eligible pupils, with support provided over the specified timeframe and to the values specified

in the [guidance](#). There are no other criteria that claims will be subject to.

The government also has a scheme in place to support individuals, families and children with food and other essentials outside of term-time through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme, which will operate through the Easter holidays. This scheme, run by local authorities, operated successfully in the Christmas and February half-term holidays and ensures that families and children who require it, including those eligible for free school meals, can receive the support they need.

Further information on the provision of free school meals and the COVID Winter Grant Scheme can be found in our [guidance on providing school meals during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

Additional materials available to support at home rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing

Tailored information and guidance to support rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools and colleges is available on the [primary schools document sharing platform](#) and the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

Additional resources are now available to support communications on the testing programme as young people move to testing themselves at home. These materials are easy to download and include:

- a poster for pupils
- an introduction to rapid self-testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- lateral flow device (LFD) self-test 4 step reminder guidance

- easy read SEND schools – swabbing yourself for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- leaflet for parents – a guide to regular testing for parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

The [instructions for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) self-testing](#) are available online in English and 12 other languages. We encourage you to include the link to the translations in your testing communications.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) personal protective equipment product alert

On Friday 19 February we asked secondary schools and colleges to check their existing supplies of nitrile gloves and immediately quarantine any stock of a specific brand in large size only.

This alert related to:

Brand: Nitri-Hand Nitrile Non-Sterile Examination Gloves

Size: Large

Product Code: FTG813, FTG814, FTG815, FTE9936, FTE9940, FTE9941

These specific gloves can now be disposed of with your other testing waste. These unused supplies require no special handling requirements and can be disposed of in the general waste.

The original product alert from the Department of Health and Social Care, and guidance on the disposal of testing waste, can be found on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

Get funding and support to set up a digital education platform

The Department for Education has extended its [digital education platform](#) programme for a further 12 months. This programme enables state-funded schools in England to receive government-funded support to get set up on a digital platform for remote learning. You can now apply and claim for a grant until the end of March 2022. So far, over 7,000 schools have applied to the programme and schools have recognised the long-term benefits of having a platform.

[Find out more about the programme](#) and [read how one school is making the most of their remote education platform.](#)

Updated guidance for children's social care services

We have updated our [guidance for children's social care services](#) to reflect the extension to existing regulatory flexibilities up to 30 September 2021. The flexibilities will continue to:

- allow visits to take place over the telephone, a video-link or other electronic communication methods, where face-to-face visits are not possible due to coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - allow medical reports or assessments to be completed at any stage of the process for approving adopters and foster carers, as long as assessments are obtained and considered for the final stage
 - suspend the mandatory minimum frequency of inspection cycles for children's social care provision, whilst recognising that Ofsted is aiming to restart graded inspections from April 2021 and will balance this with the nature and extent of any coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that might be in place moving into the 2021 to 2022 inspection year
 - freeze fees for Ofsted inspections in 2021 to 2022
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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](#)