

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

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

Subject: 12 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).

Remote education framework for schools and further education providers

We have published a framework to help schools and further education providers in England identify strengths and areas for improvement in their [remote education provision](#). This framework is not intended as a compliance or accountability tool and should be adapted to fit your individual context. The framework is for internal use and to support detailed discussions with staff and governors/trustees on appropriate next steps.

Further guidance on providing remote education can be accessed through our [get help with remote education](#) service. Ofsted has also published a short guide on [what is working well in remote education](#), which draws on findings from their interim visits, research and literature review.

Ordering laptops and tablets

All schools in England have now been invited to [order their full allocation of laptops and tablets](#). This may have happened in the autumn term or following the announcement about national lockdown and restricting attendance in schools.

If you have not ordered your full allocation and have not received our email inviting you to order, please check your spam or junk folder. Alternatively, you can [sign in to the get help with technology service](#) and follow the instructions to check your allocation and place your order.

We are also providing internet connections through free mobile data increases or 4G wireless routers for students who meet all 3 of these criteria. The student:

- does not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- is experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Today we have [announced](#) that we will provide a further 300,000 laptops and tablets to schools, colleges and further education providers. We will provide information on how these devices can be ordered soon.

Please note that only schools can place orders. Parents, carers and pupils cannot order devices or internet access through our service.

Updated guidance on Ofsted inspections

Ofsted has updated their rolling update to include information on monitoring visits. From 18 January, Ofsted will start making [monitoring inspections](#) to primary, secondary and special schools

and colleges graded inadequate or requires improvement. These will not result in a grade.

Monitoring inspections will look at how well schools are educating pupils in the current circumstances, which for most pupils means being educated remotely. They will also consider complaints made by parents about remote education to help resolve issues and make sure children are being well served. If parents feel their child's school is not providing suitable remote education, they should first raise their concerns with the teacher or headteacher. If issues are not resolved, parents can [report the matter to Ofsted](#).

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

Secondary schools have now received lateral flow device 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 lateral flow device 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 Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.

Attendance recording in schools

While parents and carers who are critical workers should keep children at home if they can, children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. Schools should speak to parents to identify children of critical workers who need to go to school; those that do not should be recorded as Code X.

- where parents of critical workers only need their child to attend school part-time, schools should use Code X to record the sessions that the child is not expected to attend
- where the child of a critical worker is expected to attend a session and does not do so, the school should record the absence as Code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable
- as usual, Code X should be used if the child is self-isolating or quarantining because of coronavirus (COVID-19)

As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they should not be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the parent should let the school know. The Department expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

Where schools grant a leave of absence to vulnerable children they should still speak to parents and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child and ensuring the child is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

All pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID19)). They are not attending because they are following public health advice.

Guidance for special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision

We are working to update our guidance for special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision to provide additional information and support in delivering education during the national lockdown. We have consulted with the sector including special school head teachers and representatives from special post-16 providers. We will publish this guidance later this week and will provide a link to it from the sector email once it is available.

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](#)