

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

Date: 12 February 2021 at 14:50:51 GMT

Subject: 12 February – Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children’s social care, schools and further education providers

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

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](#).

Exam centres – entry deadline

It is important that exam centres continue to enter candidates for the specifications they have been studying with their relevant exam boards, in order to receive their grades.

The deadline for summer 2021 entries is Sunday 21 February and will continue to apply (excluding General Qualifications and Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales).

Please refer to the awarding organisations' entries pages below for further information, including their respective late entry policies.

- [AQA](#)

- [Eduqas](#)
- [OCR](#)
- [Pearson](#)
- [WJEC](#)

Top tips for good mental health and wellbeing

Youth Mental Health Ambassador, Dr Alex George has shared his ‘top five tips’ for young people’s good mental health and wellbeing. This is live on the Department for Education’s [YouTube channel](#).

Ahead of the February half-term and as national restrictions remain in place, he has given advice to young people on how to improve their mood and look after themselves by eating well, getting plenty of sleep and natural light during the daytime.

As an A&E doctor, Dr Alex will use his clinical expertise to champion and shape government work to improve support for young people in schools, colleges and universities, as well as his personal experience having lost his brother to suicide last year. He will also sit on the new Mental Health in Education Action Group, which will focus on how to support young people’s wellbeing when they return to school and university.

Extending projects for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND)

On Wednesday 10 February, [the government announced it will re-award current contracts and grants](#) which enable schools, colleges, families and local authorities, to support thousands of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND). This includes the extension of an advice helpline, increased funding for local parent carer forums, support to improve how councils provide local

services and improved training for education staff in working with children and young people with specific needs such as autism.

The Department for Education has also [launched a consultation](#) seeking views on proposed changes to the funding formula that will calculate allocations of high needs funding in 2022 to 2023, to ensure funding is directed where it is needed most.

Students at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training (NEET) in further education

[Vulnerable children and young people](#) can currently attend all education settings. All further education providers are expected to offer an on-site place for vulnerable students and encourage them to attend on-site provision.

Further education providers, supported by local authorities, are best placed to support young people in making the decision about whether to attend their provider during the national lockdown. We encourage all providers to consider whether face-to-face education may support those who are struggling to engage or may be at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training (NEET). Any on site attendance should be undertaken in a COVID-secure way, following the system of controls as set out in the [actions for further education colleges and providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

This guidance sets out additional steps further education providers should take if any of their vulnerable students choose not to attend. It advises providers to work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence and encourage the student to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the student's attendance would be appropriate.

If a vulnerable student wishes to be absent during the period of national lockdown, they should let their setting know. The young person should not be included in the coronavirus (COVID-19) attendance monitoring data as ‘expected to attend’.

If you have any further questions, please contact your territorial team lead.

Surge testing for new coronavirus (COVID-19) variants

The Department for Health and Social Care is now using [surge testing to test for new coronavirus \(COVID-19\) variants](#). Surge testing is increased testing (including door-to-door testing) and enhanced contact tracing in [specific locations in England](#).

The government is using surge testing to:

- monitor and suppress the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- better understand new variants

At present, schools and colleges remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and nurseries remain open. There are no instructions for education or childcare settings to close in areas where new variants have been identified.

This situation is being closely monitored should further restrictions be required. Please check with your local authority for the latest advice. Further information can be found in the stay at home guidance for the national lockdown.

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](#)