

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

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

Subject: 14 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 special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision

We have published additional guidance for [special schools, specialist post-16 providers, and alternative provision \(including hospital schools\)](#) during the national lockdown period. It should be read alongside the main guidance documents: [Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools](#) and [Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings](#), which cover the main operational issues.

The guidance provides information on safety and workforce, recording attendance, Education, Health and Care plans, and funding. We know that children and young people in alternative provision and special settings, and their families, can be disproportionately impacted by being out of their normal setting.

For some of these children and young people, remote education cannot meet their needs as effectively as face-to-face provision. We have published this guidance to include information on providing on-site provision for these pupils and students wherever possible and appropriate.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) staff testing in primary schools

On 13 January we confirmed that primary schools, including school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools, should expect to receive a delivery of home testing kits from 18 January for testing of staff. If you have not received a delivery by close on Monday 25 January, or have missing or damaged items, please complete this [contact form](#). You will need the URN for your school or college to complete this form. You do not need to start any testing before the week commencing 25 January.

Primary schools including school-based nurseries will receive sufficient test kits to test their primary and early years staff. Maintained nursery schools will also receive testing kits to offer to their staff. Private early years providers will be eligible for regular asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing through local community testing programmes.

Together with NHS Test and Trace, we will be hosting a series of webinars for primary schools that will provide information on testing and discuss any issues that may arise, we will also publish guidance. Each webinar will last for 60 minutes and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Each webinar has a maximum capacity of 10,000 attendees.

The webinars will be repeated, and recordings made available online. You will only need to attend one on each topic. They will be available on the following dates (click on the link to join):

Introduction to testing in primary schools.

- [Monday, 18 January, 10am to 11am](#)
- [Monday, 18 January, 2pm to 3pm](#)

Reporting and recording of results.

- [Tuesday, 19 January, 10am to 11am](#)
- [Tuesday, 19 January, 2pm to 3pm](#)

We strongly encourage primary schools to attend these webinars. If you have any difficulties logging in, then it is very likely that we have reached the maximum capacity. If you are unable to attend the live webinar, recordings of these events will be uploaded onto the Department for Education YouTube page. We will provide links to these in a future email, once they are available.

Guidance for schools on wraparound childcare during the national lockdown

We have updated the [guidance on actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to make clear that wraparound provision, such as before and after-school clubs, should continue to run during the national lockdown for those children eligible to attend school ([vulnerable children and the children of critical workers](#)).

Continuing this provision is essential to ensure that parents and carers who are critical workers can continue to work. As well as encouraging schools to continue running their own wraparound provision for pupils, we are encouraging them to continue to work closely with any external wraparound providers their pupils may use. We have highlighted that schools may continue to open up

their premises for use by external providers that support children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

Additionally, where there are likely to be fewer numbers of children in settings, it would be appropriate for one member of staff to supervise up to two small consistent groups of children if this is necessary.

Operation Encompass teachers' helpline

Operation Encompass teachers' helpline, funded by the Home Office, is available for all staff in education settings and allows staff to speak in confidence with an educational psychologist about how best to support children experiencing domestic abuse.

Phone: 0204 513 9990

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, term-time, 8am to 1pm

Further information and resources can be found on the [Operation Encompass website](#) and in a [handbook for schools](#), which provides information about the impact of domestic abuse on children and advice on how to support them.

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](#)