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**Sent:** 23 February 2021 13:02

**To:** Janet Perry <[janet.perry@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:janet.perry@tameside.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** 23 February – 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](#).

## Updates following the Prime Minister’s announcement

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced the government’s plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges, as part of the [roadmap for leaving lockdown](#). You can read a transcript of the [Prime Minister’s speech](#) which has now been published.

We published updated guidance yesterday to reflect the changes announced by the Prime Minister:

- [early years and childcare providers](#)
- [actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

- [actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision](#)
- [students returning to and starting higher education in the spring](#)
- [contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(excluding universities\)](#)

We have also published an [evidence summary](#) which sets out the evidence relevant to, and in support of, the government's decision to lift restrictions on education from Monday 8 March. The government's wider decision-making is set out in the government's [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021](#) and [supporting scientific evidence](#).

The overwhelming evidence is that the risk to children and young people from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low, but the risks to children and young people of being out of school and college are high and increase the longer restrictions on education are in force. Whilst education settings can be places where transmission occurs, there is no strong evidence of them driving largescale community transmission.

## **Update on rapid testing in secondary schools and colleges**

With the wider reopening of schools and colleges, there will be some changes to the arrangements for testing in secondary schools and colleges.

Home testing is being introduced for secondary age pupils (11+) and college students. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site, at an asymptomatic test site (ATS). Secondary schools and colleges

should offer students 3 tests on-site, 3 to 5 days apart (min 3 days), upon their return. Testing on-site (via an ATS) initially is a condition of being able to transition pupils and students to test at home.

You have the flexibility to consider how best to deliver testing on a phased basis from Monday 8 March, depending on your circumstances and local arrangements, but you should prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and year groups 10 to 13. Pupils should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with your phased return arrangements. Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

All staff will now be able to conduct their tests at home and will be asked to continue testing twice a week. Test at home kits for staff will start becoming available from Thursday 25 February and all staff should be using them by Monday 8 March. Staff will need to report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone in line with the instructions in the home test kit. A positive confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test will be required for all positive cases. Whilst you await your delivery of test at home kits, staff should continue to be offered twice weekly testing at your school or college test site.

Schools and colleges should retain a small ATS (1 to 3 bays, depending on the size of the school or college) on site so they can offer testing to students who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home.

You will start receiving deliveries of test at home kits for staff from Wednesday 24 February. There is no need to place an order for them, deliveries will be made between Wednesday 24 February and Tuesday 2 March. From Monday 8 March, you will

automatically receive a re-stock of test at home kits so your pupils or students can collect them after their third test on-site at the school or college test site. Deliveries will be between Monday 8 March and Monday 15 March – again there is no need to place an order. The re-ordering process for test at home kits will be in place from Monday 15 March onwards.

You will receive a replenishment of ATS testing kits during w/c 1 March to ensure you are ready to test pupils and students on-site at least three times when they return. Again, there is no need to place an order for ATS kits. For this reason, the secondary schools and colleges ATS test kit reordering process is currently closed. If you have an urgent need for further testing kits, you may place an order on 1 March. Please follow this [link](#) to see the specific date on which your school or college will receive its test kits.

We will be holding a webinar tomorrow, 24 February at 12pm, to provide secondary schools and colleges with an update on the rapid testing programme. If you're unable to join the webinar it will be recorded and available to watch shortly after. Secondary schools and colleges can join the webinar using the following link: [Webinar – 24 Feb 12pm – 2pm](#). An additional webinar will be held in March which will focus on transitioning pupils and students from testing on-site to testing at home. Further information about this webinar will be provided closer to the time.

For full guidance about the new testing arrangements, including information on funding and delivery arrangements, please refer to the [rapid testing sharing platform](#). On this platform you will find three coloured handbooks:

- Orange – why and when you should do testing, as well as the funding available
- Green – how to set up testing on-site at your school or college
- Blue – how to transition your staff to testing at home

## **BBC Asian network: vaccine scams**

The BBC Asian Network has created some information on coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine scams and made it available on social media. The information includes videos in [Urdu](#), [Sylheti](#), [Punjabi](#), [Tamil](#) and [Gujarati](#) for Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

You can also find these on the [BBC news website](#).

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The information below has not changed since our last update

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## **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.