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**Sent:** 23 December 2020 17:46

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

**Subject:** 23 December – 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)

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for secondary school and college students in the first week of the spring term**

On Thursday 17 December we announced that students in schools and colleges will be able to access free coronavirus (COVID-19) testing from the week commencing 4 January. The following resources and guidance are available:

- an updated [handbook on asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](#). This handbook sets out the plans to begin rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing of staff, pupils and students, in secondary schools and colleges from January 2021 to identify asymptomatic cases
- guidance on [asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](#) which provides information for schools and colleges about

how they can start to test pupils and students from January 2021

- guidance on what [schools and childcare providers](#) need to do at the start of the spring term, including information on the return of schools with secondary-age pupils and asymptomatic testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- guidance to help [further education providers](#) put in place testing to ensure education resumes in January 2021
- a [letter template](#) providing schools with suggested text that they can use to inform parents about testing and how it works to ensure they are able to make informed consent
- a [consent template](#) to sit alongside the letter template for schools to issue to parents to provide their consent for their child (under 16) to participate in testing

We have also created a [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#) for asymptomatic testing. This area will contain additional resources to support schools and college staff and will be updated as information becomes available.

We are sharing this information with you before Christmas to ensure that you have the information and resources that you need to prepare for the spring term. Further resources and information will be added over the next week.

Additional guidance for schools and colleges with special educational needs and disability (SEND) pupils and students will be available shortly.

## **Lateral flow test kit deliveries**

All schools with secondary-age pupils, including independent schools, special schools, alternative provision, sixth forms and further education colleges, will receive an initial delivery of lateral

flow device test kits to support asymptomatic testing from the start of the spring term.

A staff member will need to be onsite and available from 8am to receive this delivery on 4 January. Further deliveries containing replenishments of supplies will be made on 4, 5 and 6 January.

If you have surplus supplies of test kits, we will tell you how this delivery can be returned at a later date.

## **Guidance for early years and childcare providers on the steps to take when a child or adult is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We have published guidance for early years and childcare providers that provides step by step advice on [what to do if a child or adult is displaying symptoms, or is a confirmed case of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in an early years setting](#).

This guidance can be used when advice on how to respond to a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) is required and when the PHE Advice Service is closed.

## **Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) will be available over the holidays to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care. These helplines will, however, close on the Christmas bank holidays, and have shortened opening hours on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

24 December – 8am to 4pm

25 to 28 December – Closed

29 to 30 December – 8am to 6pm

31 December – 8am to 4pm

1 January – 9am to 4pm

2 to 3 January – 10am to 6pm

Until 24 December, and after 3 January, the helpline opening hours are:

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.

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The information below has not changed since our last update

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## **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](#)
- [Guidance for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings](#)