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**Sent:** 26 February 2021 13:18

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

**Subject:** 26 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](#).

## Expansion of asymptomatic testing for early years staff

The asymptomatic testing programme in education currently covers all staff at school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

We are now expanding home testing kits to staff in all private, voluntary and independent nurseries. These settings will start to receive deliveries of lateral flow device (LFD) home testing kits to offer to all of their staff for twice weekly testing from next month.

This is a significant development that will help to identify positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) more quickly and break the

chains of transmission. Childminders continue to have access to community testing facilities for asymptomatic testing.

Home testing will be available for independent training providers and adult community learning providers by the end of March.

The [education in the media blog](#) details what this means for you.

## **Face coverings and testing guidance in primary schools**

Anyone experiencing the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be advised to follow to the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

The [schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) provides information on the use of face coverings and asymptomatic testing in primary schools from Monday 8 March. The guidance is clear that face coverings are only necessary for pupils in year 7 and above.

A Department for Education spokesperson has said:

“Children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings when they return to school from 8 March.”

The guidance on asymptomatic testing confirms that staff in primary schools will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home. Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs.

Public Health England has advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.

All primary school pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March.

## **Secondary and further education settings – delivery of face coverings to support contingency stock**

In line with Public Health England (PHE) advice, on Monday 22 February, we temporarily extended our policy on the use of face coverings in education and childcare settings. This change will take effect from Monday 8 March and will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep our face coverings policy under review and update guidance accordingly. For more information on the face coverings guidance in your setting, please refer to the [relevant sector specific guidance](#).

We expect that most staff, pupils, and students will already have access to face coverings from their wider use in society. However, it is recommended that all settings have a small contingency stock of face coverings available if an individual has forgotten or damaged their own.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has a strong stock of PPE including the 'Type IIR' face masks. To support the return to full attendance and ensure maximum compliance with the system of controls, DHSC is distributing 'Type IIR' masks to secondary settings and FE institutions. This supply is for use only as the settings' contingency stock of face coverings.

Secondary settings and FE institutions should expect to receive a delivery of between 5,000 and 7,500 units by the end of the week commencing Monday 8 March. In the coming weeks, settings may receive further stock depending on the size of the establishment and requirement for contingency face covering stock. We estimate that this stock should be sufficient to cover the settings' contingency stock until at least the Easter holidays.

These face coverings are being provided by DHSC at no cost to your setting. DHSC cannot accept any returns for these items.

As outlined in DfE guidance, in primary and early years (EY) settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. Children in these settings should not be asked to wear face coverings.

For any queries or complaints on delivery or missing items, please contact the DHSC PPE helpline (provided by UNIPART) on 0800 8766802, identifying yourself as an education setting. Alternatively, you can email [dfeppequeries@unipart.com](mailto:dfeppequeries@unipart.com) and your query will be handled by the helpline team.

For any questions on DfE face covering policy, please refer to the [DfE guidance](#) or call the DfE coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.

## **Ofsted consultation on the general qualifications alternative awarding framework**

Ofsted must set a framework of conditions and requirements to require awarding organisations to deliver and award qualifications in accordance with the latest policy decisions. Ofsted has launched an [open consultation](#) which explains the conditions and requirements they propose to set. The consultation incorporates 2 further draft documents which Ofsted intends to publish to support centres (the 'centre guidance' and the 'objectivity guidance').

Ofsted is seeking views on the [proposed framework of conditions and requirements](#), they are not seeking views on the underlying policy decisions, which they explained in their [analysis and decisions documents](#) published earlier this week.

This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11 March.

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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.

## **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](#)