

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

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

Subject: 29 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). If you have colleagues who would like to receive this email directly, please ask them to use this [subscription form](#).

Health and Safety Executive spot checks and inspections at schools in England and Wales

From September to December 2020, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) contacted 5,000 primary and secondary schools in England and Wales to check they were following the government guidelines on being COVID-secure.

Following the initial calls, HSE found that around 80% of schools had a good understanding of the guidance and what it means to be COVID-secure. For those schools where it was less certain, HSE undertook over 1,000 site inspections.

The inspections showed that nearly all the schools had implemented COVID-secure measures in accordance with government guidelines. No further action was taken in more than half of the schools visited, and for most of the remaining inspections, only minor issues were found that required verbal advice. Less than 1% of inspections identified contraventions of health and safety, requiring formal interventions and improvement.

Inspectors did find some common areas of concern. These included social distancing in staff rooms, kitchens and canteens, cleaning regimes, and ventilation in school buildings.

Since the visits started, the [Department for Education](#) and the [Welsh Government](#) have updated their guidance on ventilation for schools. HSE has also updated their guidance on [ventilation and air conditioning](#).

Further guidance on [being COVID-secure](#) and information on [spot checks and inspections](#) is available on the HSE website.

Asymptomatic testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools – frequently asked questions

In response to sector feedback, we have updated our frequently asked questions on asymptomatic testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools. The updates have been made to:

- provide further clarification about arrangements for the early years settings included in the testing programme
- clarify the difference between primary and secondary testing programmes

- amend the Risk Protection Arrangement text to confirm that cover applies to home testing as well as on-site testing
- clarify actions to take following positive lateral flow device test results at home
- clarify which staff should participate

The frequently asked questions can be found on the [primary school document sharing platform](#).

Asymptomatic testing in secondary schools and colleges – frequently asked questions

In response to sector feedback, we have updated our frequently asked questions on asymptomatic testing in secondary schools and colleges. The updates have been made to:

- reflect that daily contact testing as an alternative to isolation has been temporarily paused in secondary schools and colleges
- reflect that the need for confirmatory PCR tests for lateral flow device tests taken at test sites, including in secondary schools and colleges, has been temporarily removed
- provide further clarity on the use of lateral flow device tests

The frequently asked questions can be found on the [secondary school and college document sharing platform](#).

Guidance for maintained nursery schools, schools and colleges on reporting issues with coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits

If you have not received a delivery of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing kits, or have damaged or faulty items, please complete

the [contact us form](#). You will need the URN for your school or college to complete this form. Alternatively, you can call the Department for Education coronavirus helpline 0800 046 8687.

Updated guidance for further education providers

We have updated our [guidance for further education providers on restricting attendance during the national lockdown](#). This update provides further information on students who are able to return to face-to-face teaching where it is not possible for their training and assessment to be completed remotely.

School leadership support

We are offering time-limited, school-to-school recovery support to schools and academy trusts, to help overcome the challenges faced or exacerbated as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Support will be in the form of dedicated time with an experienced system leader for up to 5 days. Additional support to schools facing particular challenges may also be provided.

Support will be tailored to the individual needs of the school or academy trust and could include a focus on:

- support or planning with [remote education](#)
- how to use [catch-up funding](#) to address gaps in knowledge
- lost leadership capacity due to coronavirus (COVID-19) circumstances
- support on overcoming the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on teaching and learning

Further information on the support available, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in the guidance on [school leadership support](#).

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](#)