

Pulse survey for Department for Education on COVID issues affecting the childcare and early years sector

DfE is running this survey to understand the impact of COVID on early years settings, focusing on workforce and child absences. DfE knows that there is concern about workforce absence as part of the latest wave of the pandemic but has limited regular, up-to-date data about this. This survey will be crucial to obtaining an accurate picture of the issues that the childcare and early years sector are facing on a regular basis. As we ended the weekly survey of EY settings via local authorities in December last year, we plan to use this pulse survey to gather the most essential information about operating status, the impact of workforce issues and children's attendance directly from EY providers.

Participation involves early years settings filling in a very short weekly survey during January and February, at which point DfE will review the need for the collection. DfE envisages that an overall summary of results will be published regularly.

Whilst we understand that you may believe that important data is missing, we are extremely conscious of the burden on early years settings currently and so intend to keep the questionnaire as short and as simple as possible, focusing specifically on workforce and child absence. We do have other data collections in progress to provide different, more detailed information.

If you have any questions about this collection, please do get in touch with us at EY.analysisandresearch@education.gov.uk.