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**Slough COVID-19 Update for Education Providers Edition 1: W/C 11.01.2021**

 **Slough in**

 **NATIONAL**

 **LOCKDOWN 5th**

 **January 2021**

**The notification of cases to both DfE and duty desk will NOT change**

**Slough CV19Notifications:** **CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk**

**Thames Valley Health Protection Team (TVHPT**): **03442 253 861**

**NSPCC: Coronavirus Helpline**

The NSPCC Helpline can be reached 24 hours a day by email, at help@nspcc.org.uk or through its online reporting form on the main NSPCC website. Helpline practitioners can be contacted on **0808 800 5000** Monday to Friday 8am-10pm or 9am-6pm at the weekends.

**DfE coronavirus helpline** | Telephone **0800 046 8687**

If you have a query about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments, in England contact the DfE dedicated helpline.

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**\*\***Weekly updates with all changes nationally and locally will be shared through the LINK.

*Please note the information and links are provided to the relevant documents, which are being updated on an ongoing basis and are subject to change. These are correct as at date 12.01.2021.*

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From Tuesday 5 January 2021 a new national lockdown was introduced, which replaced the tier system across England. You must not leave or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave your home to shop for basic necessities, go to work, exercise (with your household, support bubble or one other person), meet your support or childcare bubble, seek medical assistance, avoid risk of harm (including domestic abuse) or attend education /childcare.

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local, unless it is necessary to go further. ‘Stay local’ means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live. If you are **clinically extremely vulnerable** you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise, or if it is essential. You should not attend work.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Colleges, primary (reception onwards) and secondary schools remain open for [vulnerable children and the children of critical workers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision). All other children will learn remotely until February half term.

Reducing/socially distanced contact, school bubbles, good hand/respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning/ventilation systems remain in place within schools.

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**COVID SCHOOLS PROGRAMME OFFICER**

As you are all aware the changes in messages from DfE and Public Heath are relentless. Heather Cook is the single point of contact (SPOC) for enquiries from education settings requiring COVID support and advice locally, including being the gatekeeper for information around digital/devices support and free school meals.

Heather will support education settings with interpreting current national and regional guidance regarding schools/colleges response to COVID 19. She will act as a conduit between schools, Education Team, Public Health and Duty Desk providing guidance to schools and colleges experiencing an outbreak. She will be available to provide the latest guidance on contact tracing requirements, bubble size, PPE, staff working and risk assessments. Heather is available for technical advice/support around the national roll out of the Lateral Flow testing programme in schools.

Please contact Heather on heather.cook@slough.gov.uk | **07837 725 098**

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**LATERAL FLOW TESTING IN SCHOOLS**

Lateral flow devices (LFDs) provide rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) tests (above picture is a representation of an LFD). With a phased approach beginning in January 2021, LFD testing is planned to be made available to all members of staff, all pupils and students in schools and colleges.

LFD testing will help identify asymptomatic cases (which make up a third of all cases) and will limit the spread of the virus. Testing, along with the other infection prevention and control measures already in place in schools such as social distancing, can ensure pupils are given the best chance of face to face education.

Secondary schools and colleges have now been provided with LFD testing kits including personal protective equipment (PPE). The roll out to primary schools is expected to start in the spring term. The lateral flow tests provided to schools and colleges produce a result in 30 minutes and do not require a laboratory to process. Detailed guidance/a testing handbook about LFD testing in schools can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges#testing-handbook>

Access to additional support for schools around LFD testing, as well as requesting access to further resources and reporting problems can be done via an online contact form: <https://form.education.gov.uk/service/rapid-testing-contact>

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**DIGITAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS**

Schools can get help with: -

1. [Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19)
2. [Get internet access for disadvantaged children](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#get-internet-access-for-disadvantaged-children)
3. [Manage laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers received from DfE](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#manage-laptops-tablets-and-4g-wireless-routers-received-from-dfe)
4. [Apply for a grant and support to get set up with a digital education platform](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#apply-for-a-grant-and-support-to-get-set-up-with-a-digital-education-platform)
5. [Get funded training and support to set up and use technology effectively](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19#get-funded-training-and-support-to-set-up-and-use-technology-effectively)

General information around technology support for schools during coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on: -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

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**SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS AROUND REMOTE LEARNING**

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Ofsted have written a document ‘What’s working well in remote education’

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=0b67d09b-6927-4d0d-82c4-e4ea91c78a2e&utm_content=immediate>

A DfE framework is available to help schools and further education (FE) providers in England identify strengths and areas for improvement in their remote education provision:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-your-remote-education-provision?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=53522a25-c275-4777-996d-ade6d8f11bd5&utm_content=immediately>

**SCHOOL MEALS**

Schools should continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school, including vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Support should be provided each week for benefits-related free school meal pupils at home during the national lockdown and school opening restrictions, from the week beginning 4 January to the week beginning 8 February.

**Slough schools will continue with their free school meal provision during the February half-term (via the Winter Grant Scheme).**

More information around school meals can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=0d96046e-2048-4d3a-b4c7-67e69d789a99&utm_content=immediate>

**COMMUNITY MASS RAPID TESTING (LATERAL FLOW TESTING) IN SLOUGH**

Rapid testing (Lateral Flow testing) is now free for anyone in Slough to access **if you have no symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).** If you [have symptoms of COVID-19 and need a test please go the GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

One in three people who have coronavirus (COVID-19) do not show any symptoms. The community mass rapid testing programme aims to identify those people who do not have Covid-19 symptoms but who are infectious and could spread the infection to others unknowingly. This means that anyone who has a positive test can be identified and supported to self isolate before they develop symptoms, which will help to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Rapid tests **take 10 minutes** (but you may have to queue). You'll get the results **within 45 minutes** by email/text or a phone call.

 Initial testing slots are 30 minutes

 You can just drop in but there may be queues and a longer wait

[**Booking a test**](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/LFTCurve%40slough.gov.uk/bookings/)You will need to provide a mobile phone number or email

 address when you register for a test at the site

 You will need to bring a charged mobile phone with you. If you do

not have a mobile phone, there will be facilities at the site to register

You will need to bring your own face mask

You may have to queue for a short time. Please note that there are no

seating or toilet facilities on site

Adults can receive a rapid test. Young people aged **16-17** can self-swab or agree to assisted swabbing by a trained professional. They can consent to their own medical treatment without a parent or guardian present. Children aged **12-15** can self-swab or agree to assisted swabbing by a trained professional, with supervision from their parent or guardian.

SLOUGH’S COMMUNITY RAPID TESTING PROGRAMME WILL BE RUNNING FROM

WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2021 TO SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2021

**SITES FOR SLOUGH RESIDENTS:**

[**THE CENTRE, FARNHAM ROAD**](https://www.slough.gov.uk/directory-record/4865/the-centre) (from Wednesday 13 January 2021)

Tuesdays to Saturdays: 10am to 6pm. There is parking available

[**LANGLEY COLLEGE SPORTS HALL, STATION ROAD**](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Langley%2BCollege/%4051.5053456%2C-0.5463016%2C17z/data%3D%214m13%211m7%213m6%211s0x4876701814815411%3A0x4a6f11a107099241%212sStation%2BRd%2C%2BSlough%213b1%218m2%213d51.5053456%214d-0.5441129%213m4%211s0x487671bd0d008d65%3A0xd6ca25d367b198%218m2%213d51.5054495%214d-0.5444965)(from Tuesday 19 January 2021)

Tuesdays to Saturdays: 10am to 6pm. There is parking available.

**MOBILE SITES**

There will be mobile sites at various locations around Slough. These will ‘pop-up’ for up to three days and then move on to another site. The mobile sites will be advertised locally and on social media.

More information about the Community Rapid Testing Programme in Slough can be found on: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus/mass-rapid-testing/6?documentId=790&categoryId=20179>