

Children and Families, Early Years Division
Weekly News Bulletin: 3rd March 2021



Department for Education

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.



PACEY is in discussions with the DfE about how the extended provision of home testing for families can also support **childminders** to access home tests, whether they provide childcare for school aged children or early education for pre-school children. We hope to provide an update on this important issue later this week

Liz Bayram, Chief Executive comments:

"We are now seeking urgent clarification that registered childminders and nannies who provide wraparound care are included in this offer as well as how childminders and nannies who only care for pre-school children will be able to have the same protection.

We are also pushing DfE to provide guidance to providers who offer childcare before school and may well be expected to monitor children taking their twice weekly test whilst in their childcare setting".

[Click here](#) for PACEY Coronavirus (Covid-19) FAQ's :
updated 1 March 2021



COVID-19: letter to clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people

Page summary:

Reference-only version of letter from the government to children and young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Change made:

First published.

Time updated:

2:36pm, 26 February 2021

Funded Early Education

Do you need an adjustment task for this current spring term (01/01/2021 to 31/03/2021)?

If **you require** an adjustment task – please email Eyfunding@slough.gov.uk . (If you have already requested one you do not need to respond).

Please let us know as soon as possible as the task will go out tomorrow, **Thursday 4th March 2021**.



Ofsted Coronavirus (Covid-19) rolling update

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers.

Updated : 2 March 2021

Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Page summary:

What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made:

We have withdrawn the 'Education and childcare settings: national lockdown from 5 January 2021' guidance and transferred relevant sections into the updated 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' guidance.

Time updated:

4:19pm, 22 February 2021

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.

Childminder agency (CMA) inspection requirements for Ofsted

Page summary:

DfE requirements for Ofsted when organising and undertaking childminder agency (CMA) inspections.

Change made:

Clarified that childminder agencies carry out quality assurance visits to CMA-registered childminders.

Time updated:

10:55am, 23 February 2021

Early years and childcare - Ofsted News Bulletin

Subscribe to Ofsted's monthly newsletter for information and updates

You can [subscribe to this newsletter here](#).

Remote education and SEND

[How remote education is working for children and young people with SEND](#)

Watch a video featuring inspectors discussing some good practice we have seen on remote education for children and young people with SEND. These findings are from our autumn and spring term interim visits.

You can also read our [research into remote education](#) and [guidance on what works well](#).

Time updated:

10.00am 2 March 2021

Safeguarding

Online Harm - Guide for professionals and a Guide for parents.

The Marie Collins Foundation and NWG Network have published two guides aimed at reducing online harm for children and young people. The Online Sexual Harm Reduction Guide is aimed at professionals and includes information about: why young people don't always speak out and responding to online harm. The guide aimed at parents, How Can I Help My Child?, includes information on: what online harm is; how to respond; and getting help from others.

Access the guides: [Help for parents and professionals](#)

New Psychological First Aid training

On Monday, PHE launched [a new psychological first aid \(PFA\) online training course](#) to help support children and young people that have been affected by emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is available for all frontline workers such as teachers, health and social workers, charity and community volunteers and anyone who cares for or is regularly in contact with children and young people aged up to 25, including parents and caregivers.

Those completing the training will be equipped to better identify those children that are in distress and provide support to help them feel safe, connected and able to take steps to help themselves during the pandemic or other crisis situations.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) key messages around vaccine hesitancy

The **WHO**, Doctors of the world and the Greater London Authority have produced updated Infographics to promote the key covid-19 messages throughout the pandemic. These can be downloaded here [COVID-19 Infographics \(covid19graphics.info\)](#) The Infographics are available in over 40 different languages.

There is a need to address the issue of vaccine hesitancy especially within our BAME communities, and as a local authority we are seeking to tackle any misinformation that is circulating, and allay genuine fears. There are various information sessions being delivered by our Public Health officers and Doctors to local community groups, faith groups, domiciliary care and care home staff, and to any groups that need answers to their queries.

Infographics are also available on vaccines and the importance of immunisation [English Vaccines overview.png \(3306x4675\) \(covid19graphics.info\)](#) Translated versions in Urdu, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Somali and Hindi will be available soon for you to use as appropriate, as these languages represent our diverse community

Information videos in 5 South Asian languages can be seen here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55279549>

Information videos in British Sign Language can be viewed here - [Government publications Covid-19 vaccinations British sign language](#)

If you are aware of any community groups that could benefit from an information session, please contact Tim Howells (Public Health Officer) who is co-ordinating the sessions times.

Vitamin D Campaign

As part of the Vitamin D campaign evaluation, Public Health are reviewing local uptake of Vitamin D based on the potential link to the COVID pandemic and increasing levels of Vitamin D deficiency amongst higher risk groups. It's a 30 second survey for people to complete whether they take Vitamin D or not. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P626GQG>

**Berkshire Healthcare NHS
 Talking Therapies Talking Health**

Talking Therapies Talking Health
 Relieving distress and transforming lives in Berkshire

Feeling low, stressed, or worrying too much?
 Talking Therapies are here to help – Your free, confidential NHS Service in Berkshire

We offer support to help with difficulties such as:
 Distress / coping in relation to living with long term health conditions including:
 Post/Long COVID-19, Type 2 Diabetes, COPD and Heart Conditions
 Stress | Low Mood | Anxiety | Panic Attacks | Phobias
 Sleep Difficulties | OCD | Trauma

We offer therapies including:

- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), Computerised CBT and 'guided self-help', these help people make changes in the 'here and now' to improve how they feel and resolve problems. The focus is on what people think and do and this affects the way they feel and function in life. Therapists help you to understand the nature of your difficulties and agree set goals to work on to overcome them.
- Stress Less workshops and Wellness courses.
- Counselling for Depression which helps you explore any problems causing you distress. Through exploring issues with a counsellor you may gain new understanding which can support you in finding your way forward.
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression (IPT) focuses on relationship areas that can contribute to personal difficulties.

We are a free, confidential NHS service for those aged 17 and over, living in Berkshire. We offer help for difficulties such as:

- Stress
- Motivation or low confidence
- Frustration about not living up to own expectations
- Excessive worry or panic attacks
- Phobias
- Depression
- Work stress
- Sleep
- Coping with a physical health problem
- Obsession and compulsions
- Trauma-related stress
- Relationships

Find out more by contacting us:
 talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/
 Call us on – 0300 365 2000
 Or discuss with your GP

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Healthwatch Slough are now producing a regular newsletter, it highlights the work and projects we are doing as well as health news and campaigns from Slough and East Berkshire.

You can read and download our previous editions by going to our [newsletter page](#) and sign up easily for the next one by completing [the sign up form](#).

Read the [February newsletter here](#)

Updates for Parents

All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week

Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March

[Government News rapid Covid-19 weekly testing](#)

Published : 28th February 2021

World Book Day 4th March 2021

Ideas for World Book Day 2021 as well as resources for celebrating reading for pleasure all year round in one handy place.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/schoolsandnurseries/>

SEND

Contact run free family workshops for families with children with additional needs. They are currently running workshops on various dates in March.

[Family workshops - Contact](#)

Slough SENDIASS

Slough's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides information online about services, support and activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25.

Review our new website [here](#)