Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 11 March 2021



**Guidance and delivery schedule for nurseries in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector - COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme.**

Dear nursery colleague

We are writing to provide more information about introducing nurseries in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector to the COVID-19 education testing programme.

We are expanding the rapid asymptomatic testing programme to staff in PVI nurseries. It is crucial that we continue to break the chains of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) by identifying asymptomatic positive cases in the community. Up to one in three people who have the virus do not have symptoms (they are asymptomatic), so could be spreading the disease unknowingly.

Your nursery will start receiving deliveries of lateral flow device **(LFD) test kits from today, 11 March**. **Your staff are asked to start testing from the week beginning 22 March**. Staff should take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week, preferably in the morning.

**Please note that you should not offer testing to children in early years settings.**

Further guidance on asymptomatic home testing is now available for you to view on our [document sharing platform](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X4fLxy6_ppmpmKrv3hT2M6cduAN_GS54). This platform has the latest testing guidance, including:

* guidance to support set-up of testing for staff, including a ‘How To Guide’
* in-depth information and videos on how to self-test from home
* clinical standard operating procedure for the tests. This provides comprehensive step by step information for settings delivering the testing programme.
* frequently asked questions
* a [delivery schedule](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uRG20r2gryxSBrUHgijxX-rLmA2Fg_HU/view?usp=sharing) providing you with your expected delivery dates and testing supplies

If you have any queries about your expected delivery date and supplies, please check the delivery schedule in the first instance. You will be able to report any delivery issues using a new **online form from 15 March**. Further information on this will also be available from 15 March.

The number of testing kits that you will receive for workforce testing is based on a workforce estimation using the number of childcare places on record with Ofsted. If this data is no longer correct and you think you have **not received the correct number of test kits, please use the online form available from 15 March to report this to us.**

We will provide you with further information on how to order further testing supplies by the beginning of April.

From tomorrow, you will start to receive the latest information and announcements through our daily email to the education sector. If you have colleagues who would like to receive the daily email directly, please ask them to use this [subscription form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yXfS-grGoU2187O4s0qC-QqN_lFznWdElvOZAsgLa61UMlVaSEZWQVA3RDE1VU05SlVOQVFDNVlINy4u).

If you have any questions, concerns or issues that are not addressed through the document sharing platform, please call the **DfE coronavirus helpline**:

**Phone: 0800 046 8687**

**Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm**