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June 2021

Dear School and College Leaders,

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be delayed by up to four weeks.

We want to update you on plans for testing over the summer and into the autumn so you have sufficient time to plan ahead of the summer break.

This is to confirm that some key measures, such as testing and contact tracing, will stay in place until the end of the summer term. Thank you for all your efforts to encourage students and staff to test themselves twice a week at home. This is hugely important and therefore we should be grateful if you would continue to encourage this in these last few weeks of term.

Regular rapid asymptomatic testing will be paused in schools and colleges over the summer except for those that remain open, such as for summer schools and those that do not operate on a term-time basis. In these cases, we ask that those attending continue to test regularly and we will provide support to those schools and colleges in doing this. For summer schools, NHS Test and Trace will provide support with contact tracing. However, testing is still widely available and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online [here](#).

Given the uncertainties about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, we want to help schools and colleges to be prepared for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays. We will therefore provide all schools and colleges with refreshed guidance, test kits, and PPE so that schools and colleges can be ready to stand up on-site Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) from the start of the autumn term. We expect to be able to confirm the position alongside announcements on step 4.

Test kits will start to be delivered from Tuesday 29 June, and information on delivery schedules and refreshed guidance is now available on the school/college document sharing platform. If you do not have access to this, please contact the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and how hard teachers and staff have worked to keep schools and colleges open. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take

the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done, including on testing, to maintain education provision during the pandemic.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School
Standards

Gillian Keegan MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Apprenticeships and
Skills