

Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: supplementary 15.07.21



Department
for Education

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Updated to clarify that, from 19 July, government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

Updated: 14 July 2021

This information has also been updated in the following guidance:

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

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

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The Department for Education COVID-19 helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Department for Education Guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

Information on the use of face coverings on dedicated school and college transport

On Monday, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that Step 4 will go ahead on the Monday 19 July. The Prime Minister also said 'we expect and recommend people wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with those you don't normally meet such as on public transport'. We have therefore updated our operational guidance for settings which now recommends that face coverings are worn on dedicated transport to school or college when prevalence is high. This will be kept under review.

School and college leaders can take operational decisions about their own settings, but in doing so they should consider all steps and measures available and their impact on provision for students, using national guidance, their own risk assessments, and advice from their director of public health. Initial support for decision making should be sought from the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687 or by referring to local arrangements. We expect schools and colleges to deliver a full curriculum or education and training programme, including any wider school or college offer for their students.

Encouraging testing participation in schools and colleges

Over 62 million rapid COVID-19 tests have been completed as part of testing in education since Monday 4 January. This is thanks to the efforts of everyone in the education sector and the dedication of staff, students and their parents.

As the Secretary of State for Education set out last week, we are working to remove current restrictions in line with Step 4. However, in order to minimise disruption to students and staff for the end of the summer term it is vitally important that staff and students continue regular testing. Maintaining momentum of the rapid testing programme is key to helping break the links of transmission.

To support your continued efforts in encouraging staff and students to report and participate in testing, you can now access the COVID-19 testing reporting data for your setting on the [view your education data \(VYED\) portal](#). To view your data, you will need to log in using either your [IDAMs](#) or [DfE sign in](#).

New household account feature for parents reporting test results

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, if a parent is submitting results through their account on behalf of a child, they have to enter the child's details every time they report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents to save their children's details to their own user accounts so parents can report results for multiple members in the household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents can then add all household members to their account, enabling them to save time when reporting all future self-test results.

Information for schools on remote education for the next academic year

As set out in the [schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#) for Step 4, schools should maintain their capacity to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year in case it is needed. The remote education expectations and support offer can be found at [get help with remote education](#).

We will review over the summer and into the autumn term to confirm if another temporary continuity direction is needed.

Parents and carers

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

Information for parents and carers about attending schools, nurseries and colleges in 2021.

Clarified that “From 19 July, the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don’t normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.”

Updated: 14 July 2021

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

We have clarified that “From 19 July, the Government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don’t normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

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