

## Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 16.09.21



Department  
for Education

### **Letter to teachers, leaders, and other school staff from the Secretary of State for Education**

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a letter to teachers, leaders and other school staff all over the country to thank you for all your efforts over the last 18 months and to look ahead to a new academic year that brings a greater sense of normality.

The letter is available to read on our [Education Hub blog](#).

### **Contacting NHS Test and Trace on 119 for issues and queries about the supply, ordering and delivery of test kits for all settings that are part of the education rapid testing programme**

Please contact NHS Test and Trace on 119 for any issues or queries about the supply, ordering or delivery of test kits. The helpline is open 7:00am to 11:00pm, Monday to Sunday. Please note that the DfE COVID-19 helpline will no longer be able to respond to queries about test kit supply and logistics. For all other enquiries about the rapid testing programme in education, please continue to contact the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

### **Information for state-maintained schools on the National Tutoring Programme (NTP)**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the second year of the NTP for the academic year 2021/22. Last year saw over 300,000 pupils, whose learning was significantly impacted by the pandemic, benefit from catch-up tutoring and mentoring via the NTP. This year, we are aiming to reach thousands more pupils, all of whom will benefit from the support available.

Building on the success of the first phase of the NTP, we have listened to your feedback and expanded the programme. We recognise that each school has pupils with different needs. We have developed a tutoring offer that provides a high degree of flexibility and choice to support the pupils most in need.

Schools will now be able to consider three options available through NTP:

- Tuition Partners – schools access tutoring from an approved list of tutoring providers known as Tuition Partners (TPs). TPs offer a range of subjects and provide targeted support for pupils in small group or one-to-one sessions
- Academic Mentors – mentors work alongside teachers in eligible schools to support students. They are salaried members of staff and will work alongside teachers to provide a range of interventions, focusing on small group and one-to-one sessions. They will provide support tailored to schools, including subject-specific work, revision lessons and additional support
- School-Led Tutoring (new to the NTP this year) – eligible schools are given a ring-fenced grant to fund locally sourced tutoring provision for disadvantaged pupils. This could include using existing staff such as teachers and teaching assistants or external tutoring resources such as private tutors or returning teachers. The grant gives schools the flexibility to use tutors with whom they are familiar

All schools are encouraged to apply for the NTP. To register or find out more about the options available, please see the information [about the National Tutoring Programme](#).

### **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](#)

## Young people aged 12 to 15 to be offered a COVID-19 vaccine

The Health and Social Care Secretary has [announced](#) that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).

The main purpose of the COVID-19 childhood vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who receive the vaccine and help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the wider population. Healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school (with alternative provision for those who are home schooled), in secure services or specialist mental health settings.

Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccine will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications who are trained in the vaccination of children and young people. More information on the COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccination programme and how it will work, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions, will be included in the guidance for schools from Public Health England to be published shortly.

Reminder for schools and colleges to complete the educational setting status form

Schools and colleges are asked to resume completing the [educational setting status form](#) from the start of the autumn term. Please complete the form each day by 2pm.

We are asking you to continue to submit your attendance data daily throughout September, so we can monitor attendance in schools and colleges after the summer break.

We have made some changes to the form to align with the latest guidance for [schools](#) and [colleges](#), however, this does not impact the way that you complete the form. We have updated the questions on COVID-19 related absence and have added a new set of questions about managing COVID-19 in your school or college.

Further information on completing the educational setting status form, including an updated set of attendance sub-codes, can be found in our [guidance](#).



## [Schools and early education inspection update: academic year 2021 to 2022](#)

Updates for inspectors and stakeholders with the latest information and guidance about Ofsted's inspection work in schools and early education settings.

First published: 9 September 2021

The update is for inspectors, though education professionals may also find it useful.

It includes relevant guidance and information for inspectors on early education inspection matters as well as for schools.

This edition includes changes to the school inspection handbooks, guidance and inspection instruments for September 2021.

[Schools and early education update: September 2021](#)

Please can you find attached an **Updated Pro Forma for all Education Settings to notify Slough Borough Council of any positive COVID-19 cases**

It is now being requested that Education Settings:

- Only report **confirmed** PCR tests. 'Awaiting tests' means that there will potentially be multiple reports for the same case(s), which is leading to confusion. Lateral Flow test results/notification about someone with COVID-19 symptoms is **not** needed.
- Only report **each case once**.
- The date of the PCR has been included as this is helpful for data collection purposes.
- A date and time of the report has also been included as occasionally multiple reports from the same setting are being submitted, so this identifies whether it is a new or repeat notification.

The notifications email address remains the same: [CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk](mailto:CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk)



Pro forma Schools September 2021 CV19 Notifications drop box.pdf

### **Update from DHSC re PCR tests and educational settings**

**PCR tests for children/young people can no longer be booked on the advice of schools.**

Public Health England have advised that schools should only be asking contacts to test where advised to do so by the Thames Valley Health Protection Team. This is to ensure that only close contacts are booking tests, so as not to overwhelm the system or test unnecessarily.

The guidance to 119 call handlers has also been updated today, as follows:

#### ***HPT (health protection team) PCR requests***

*You may see an increase in callers asking to be tested at the request of a local HPT - please book these citizens a PCR test.*

*Local HPTs are assisting trace in some schools with contact tracing of school children.*

*Children/Parents should follow the instructions given by local HPT.*

**You can download the PHSE Educational Settings outbreak Pack V06.00 09.09.21 here:**



PHSEEducationalSettingsOutbreakPackV06.00.pdf

## Early Years Education Team

### DfE Early Years Attendance Data collection

The DfE have made the decision to collect the attendance data from the Early Years sector at 4 points during the autumn term from every local authority in England.

The Department for Education uses your data for the following purposes:

- ◆ Identifying attendance trends at a national level, which helps us to understand changes in the health of the childcare market.
- ◆ Identifying areas which are experiencing difficulties in meeting local demand for places and understanding the causes of these challenges.
- ◆ Targeting our communication with LAs, so that our regional leads can bring forward routine calls or offer more frequent check-ins if needed.
- ◆ Sharing the information, you provide with colleagues across Early Years and wider government to create an evidence base to inform policy development

We have sent the spreadsheet for you to complete and return to the Early Years team by **12pm (midday) on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September** to [EarlyYears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:EarlyYears@slough.gov.uk)

Please note we are collecting data for children 4 years and under that are on roll at your setting. Please record all children currently attending your provision, if you do not have any children attending, please reply to this email with a Nil return and inform us if you are closed.

We will send you a reminder the week commencing the next three collection dates in October, November and December. The dates for your calendar are:

- ◆ Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September
- ◆ Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October
- ◆ Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November
- ◆ December date tbc by the DfE

It is expected that the data collection will cease at the end of this term, but we will keep you posted as we are directed by the DfE.

We really appreciate your ongoing support in enabling us to submit the attendance data to the DfE; so we thank you in advance for ensuring you send us your data by midday on the four Thursday collection points.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk)

### Training calendar autumn term

A reminder that there is a range of training available to book onto via The Link, for the autumn term, so please make sure you are booking onto training and the meetings in advance; including the PVI managers forum, Early Years Cluster, sendco network and the I Talk network.