

Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 29.09.21



Department
for Education

Updates to sector guidance following the September Review

On Tuesday 14 September, the Cabinet Office published the [COVID-19 Response – Autumn and Winter Plan 2021](#). This guidance set out plans for autumn and winter 2021/22 in England.

We have updated our guidance documents to reflect the changes made to the government's response to COVID-19. The following pieces of guidance have been updated to align with the autumn and winter plan:

- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [SEND and specialist settings: additional COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [Improving school attendance: support for schools and local authorities](#)
- [Public health guidance to support exams for 2021 to 2022](#)
- [Dedicated transport to schools and colleges COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [COVID-19: Actions for out-of-school settings](#)
- [Out-of-school settings: COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#)
- [COVID-19: assessment processes for selective school admissions September 2021](#)
- [Further education COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [Test kits for schools and further education providers](#)
- [Higher education COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [Quarantine arrangements for unaccompanied minors joining higher education providers in England](#)
- [COVID-19: guidance for children's social care services](#)
- [Test kits for children's homes](#)

Updates to these pieces of guidance include changes to international travel announced by the Department for Transport and the removal of references to Step 4 of the COVID-19 roadmap.

Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic

Please see the update from DfE that the Early Years guidance has been updated and can be found here: [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Guidance updates include:

- latest policy around asymptomatic testing
- updated workforce section
- changes to advice around individuals previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable
- reminder that disapplications to the EYFS ended on 31 August
- added additional guidance on educational visits

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](#)

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; information added on universal vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds, updated sections on self-isolation, education recovery and guidance for critically extremely vulnerable children and young people to reflect that no under-18s are now considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable and all have been removed from the shielding patient list. Clarified the circumstances in which schools may be advised to reintroduce 'bubbles'.

Updated: 27 September 2021

Ofsted's role in regulating childcare: poster for parents

Childcare services can display this poster. It has information about our responsibilities and how parents can contact us.

Download here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poster-for-parents-childcare?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a92c4d1f-2a70-4361-920c-aedd8bca3f57&utm_content=daily

EYFS

EYFS - supporting documents

What to Expect in the EYFS

DfE has published a new guide for parents, produced by Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre. **What to Expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage** (formerly 'What to Expect When') guides parents through what to expect with their child's development. It aligns with the new Development Matters to help practitioners engage with parents about their child's development.

A Celebratory Approach to Working with Children with SEND

DfE has also published a new guide for practitioners, produced by Pen Green Children's Centre - '**A Celebratory Approach to Working with Children with SEND – Giving additional support in the Early Years**' (formerly 'A Celebratory Approach to SEND assessment in the Early Years') to help practitioners who may be supporting children who require additional help or children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Childminders

[Apply to register as a childminder](#)

Find out when you must apply to register if you want to look after other people's children in your home or someone else's home. Further information on childminder agencies added. This is not a change in law or practice.

Updated: 23 September 2021

[Childminder agencies: registration and suitability](#)

Guidance for childminder agencies on registering with Ofsted, including the process, fees and requirements. It sets out the legal background and the extent of our regulatory powers. Added guidance for childminders or providers of childcare on domestic premises who want to register with a childminder agency.

Updated: 23 September 2021

[Apply to register your nursery or other daycare organisation \(EYO\)](#)

Find out when you must apply to register if you want to set up a nursery, or other daycare organisation for children. Information added on childminder agencies being able to accept registrations for childcare on domestic premises. This is not a change in law or practice.

Updated: 23 September 2021

Reminder to all providers managing positive cases of CV-19

Please ensure you follow the latest government guidance and complete and return the form below to CV19_notifications@slough.gov.uk

If you also let the Early Education Team know they can offer any further advice and support, email or call Sharon Rose, Danielle Mercer or Karen Loft – thank you



Pro forma Schools September 2021 CV19 Notifications drop box.pdf

Message from Heather Cook; Covid schools programme officer:

UPDATED PHE DOCUMENT (VERSION 07)

Please find attached a copy of the new version (07) PHE Outbreak Management Pack. There are a number of changes:

- Section 4.3 Students/staff of close positive COVID contacts are now being advised to undertake a PCR test if they have not been contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- Removal of advice about contacting T&T hub for staff.
- Template emails updated to advise that inform and advice letters (either produced by LA or HPT) can be sent in outbreak situations or at HT discretion.
- Referral form has been updated to include a questions about CEV individuals.

Peter Rowe (Head of Ryvers Primary) has also reported that he contacted the self-isolation hub yesterday on 020 3743 6715 re Test and Trace in the Workplace and they wouldn't accept his referral. He was advised to contact the CV19Notifications drop box at CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk So please could you continue with CV19Notifications using the usual pro forma (see above)

I apologise for the constant changing of information, but this is coming through from PHE.

FLOWCHART FOR PARENTS

I have attached a parent friendly flow chart, which has been produced by our partner agencies - 'When do you need to keep your child off school or nursery', which may be a good resource to send out to your parents.

COVID VACCINATIONS FOR 12-15 YEAR OLDS

Whilst I appreciate that this is only relevant to Secondary Schools, you may have queries from parents. There is a new national 119 line now equipped to take queries from the public about 12-15s vaccination programme, so please can you signpost any parents with queries to this number.

There has been a hoax consent form (with NHS logo) for 12-15 year olds circulated to Slough Secondary schools, which the Secondary schools are aware of but if you have any queries around this or experience any suspicious communications yourselves which may be from anti-vaccination groups please contact Heather Cook as below, who can advise.



Covid flowchart.pdf



PHSESEducationalSettingsOutbreakPackV07.00.pdf

In the news

Food safety advice on choking hazards in settings

Tragically, a child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. It can happen quickly and it can happen to anyone.

The Food Standards Agency have issued some useful resources in the form of two posters which can be displayed in your setting where food is prepared and served to children, as a helpful reminder of how to minimise the risk of choking.

Download the guidance and poster here

[Food safety advice on choking hazards in settings | From pregnancy to children aged 5 \(foundationyears.org.uk\)](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/food-safety-advice-on-choking-hazards-in-settings)



Lucy Lewin discusses the importance of having strong relationships with parents and how knowing them well will allow you to have difficult conversations.

[BLOG: Having difficult conversations with parents | PACEY](#)



Stay at home and self-isolate

Please see detailed guidance online and download the poster to share with your families.
[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection)



Stay_at_home_Illustrated_household_guide.pdf
