Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 28th April 2021



**Change in how to order test kits for Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Nurseries**

The process for how PVIs obtain testing kits is changing from **29 April.** We are introducing a new online system for re-ordering test kits for testing at home. This means that you will soon be able to re-order test kits and better manage stock levels and deliveries to your nursery.

You will receive a welcome email in the next few days containing your Unique Organisation Number (UON). You can also find your UON at the following [link](https://organisation-number-lookup.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/#:~:text=Unique%20organisation%20number%20lookup,existing%20organisation%20ID%20and%20postcode.&text=If%20you%20are%20unsure%20of,if%20you%20are%20in%20Scotland.). Your UON will enable you to place ongoing re-orders for test kits via the online ordering system, which can be accessed at the following [link](https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/).

You can find guidance on how to place an order on the [document sharing platform](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X4fLxy6_ppmpmKrv3hT2M6cduAN_GS54).

As a first step you should use your UON to access the online ordering system, familiarise yourself with the system, and check that your delivery address and contact details are correct.

**Planned stock replenishment in w/c 3 May**

You will automatically receive a delivery of test kits on Thursday 6 May, Friday 7 May or Monday 10 May. The delivery that you receive will be the **final automatic delivery**. After this you will need to place an order to receive further test kits.

This delivery should provide you with sufficient testing kits to last until the end of May. This means you do not need to place an order for testing kits immediately and will have time to familiarise yourself with the new ordering process, so that you can place an order when needed.

**Delivery timescales**

When you are ready to place your first order, you will need to consider our delivery timelines. Any order which is placed by Wednesday 5pm will be delivered the following week. Any orders placed after this point will be processed and delivered in the subsequent week. For your first order, you may want to place the order at least three working days before the weekly Wednesday 5pm delivery cut off, to ensure that any initial setup issues can be resolved in good time. The table below summarises the delivery timelines:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1: Order Placed** | **Week 2: Order received** | **Week 3: Order received** |
| Orders placed before Wednesday 5pm | Delivery received |  |
| Orders placed after Wednesday 5pm |  | Delivery received |

Each delivery you receive will be based on the staff numbers you submit and will provide you with sufficient test kits to test twice weekly for three and a half weeks.

Please consider your current stock level and your testing demands before placing any order, to ensure that the order you place meets your testing needs.

## [**Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a433cb7c-6b43-435b-bb66-585b5364d5a0&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**  
The standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.

**Change made:**  
Updated as inspections of early years providers resume on 4 May, the disapplications to the early years foundation stage profile are in force (and no longer subject to parliamentary approval), and paediatric first aid practitioners must attend requalification training to renew expired certificates.

**Time updated:**  
10:32am, 20 April 2021

## [**Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ecc7abc7-57a6-441b-99ad-eed371f0401d&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**  
Attendance in education settings since Monday **23 March 2020** and early years settings since Thursday **16 April 2021**.

**Change made:**  
Added ‘Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: **23 March 2020 to 15 April 2021’**.

**Time updated:**  
12:00pm, 20 April 2021

[**Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 15 April 2021**](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak-23-march-2020-to-15-april-2021?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=2c030e09-f7db-4245-ad00-8dc83e27b27a&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**Attendance in education settings since Monday **23 March 2020** and early years settings since Thursday **16 April 2021**.

**Change made:**First published.

**Time updated:**  
12:00pm, 20 April 2021

## [**Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=b658e889-4d6b-4c03-91fa-012235471e28&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**Find out how apprenticeships will continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

**Change made:**Added information to confirm all apprentices in HE can return to in-person teaching and learning no earlier than 17 May. Amended a date in the functional skills qualification section. Removed out-of-date information on the exam support service.

**Time updated:**  
4:22pm, 20 April 2021

**Updated guidance around attending groups in England**

Since parent and child groups reopened indoors earlier this month in line with the [latest easing of lockdown restrictions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021) in England, further guidance from the Department for Education is available to clarify what the rules are for practitioners:

[**Holiday activities and food programme**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme)

**Change Made:**

Added information on safeguarding requirements and a link to allergies guidance for schools

**Updated :**

27 April 2021



**Headlines from Ofsted’s research into the impact of the pandemic on the Early Years:**

* Pandemic has significantly impacted the learning and development of children who had left and subsequently returned to their EY setting.
* Children who continued to attend their setting or who were well supported at home had made good progress in their learning.
* Children hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic are regressing in basic skills and learning.
* Many providers have made changes to the resources and routines in their settings and most have increased their teaching of personal hygiene
* Providers said they are particularly concerned about children’s personal, social and emotional development.
* Some children had returned less confident and more anxious.
* Many providers have given some aspects of the curriculum a greater focus as a result of children’s experiences of the pandemic.

**Return to inspecting the Early Years:**

* Continue registration work and responding to regulatory safeguarding concerns
* Reviewing information held about providers to make decisions about some inspections
* Safe phased return to inspections based on the principles:
  + Sensitive to challenges presented by Covid-19
  + Priority safety and welfare, follow current PHE guidance
  + Continue with compliance and enforcement work

[**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update)

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers

**Updated:** 26 April 2021

**Slough Early Years**

The Early Education team is collecting data on the numbers of children identified with additional needs and SEND within early years. This information will be used to support strategic planning and we would appreciate your cooperation with this audit.

***Please disregard the previous link that was sent out.***

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EarlyyearsSENDAudit2021>

Please submit your survey response **by Friday 7th May.**

For any questions about the survey please email:

[Catherine.Woodbridge@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Woodbridge@slough.gov.uk)

**Referral Form for parenting intervention programmes**



**Updates for parents and carers**



## [**Local area SEND inspections: information for families**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspections-information-for-families?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=0e125373-1bb9-45eb-853d-a2ca75558de5&utm_content=daily)

**Page summary:**  
Information for families about inspections of local area services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

**Change made:**Added visit dates and webinar links.

**Time updated:**2:00pm, 22 April 2021