

Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 06.10.21



Department for Education

Reminder to schools and colleges: encouraging twice weekly testing

Thank you for all your work to encourage testing. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms.

We have worked with school leaders and further education providers to identify some strategies that have been successfully used to increase participation in testing. These are fully outlined in a new toolkit '[how to encourage pupils and students to test regularly](#)'.

[Reporting test results](#) is just as important as taking the test, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed. Please remind staff and students to report their result on [NHS Test and Trace](#).

LFD test kit stock supply

To facilitate twice weekly testing at home for staff and students, when your test kit stocks start to run low you will need to order more test kits as these will not be automatically sent to you. You can order more test kits using the [online re-ordering portal](#).

To support outbreak interventions, you may be asked to increase the frequency of testing by your Director of Public Health. In this scenario you should use any existing stock of test kits in the first instance. If further supply is required there are a number of channels available to you:

- business as usual (BAU) order through the [online re-ordering portal](#): orders placed through the online reordering system before 5pm on Tuesday will be delivered the following week. Schools and colleges should continue to use the BAU channel to replenish stock to support regular twice-weekly testing and any increased testing as directed by Directors of Public Health.
- Local Authority: if your school or college has insufficient test kits, you should liaise with your Local Authority to understand if there is excess stock available to support additional testing.
- emergency orders: you can place an order for an emergency replenishment by contacting 119 if the BAU and Local Authority channels are unable to fulfil the requirement for test kits to help manage an outbreak. These orders will be delivered within 48 hours.

The Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has established a new £500 million Household Support Fund to help the hardest-hit families and individuals with daily needs such as food, clothing and utilities. The fund is being run by Local Authorities in England, who are best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

You can find more information on [support for vulnerable families over winter](#). Further details on the Household Support Fund will be available on DWP's website in due course.

The furlough scheme has now closed

The furlough scheme has now closed and final claims for September must be made by Thursday 14 October. For September claims, the government will pay 60% of employees' usual wages for hours they were furloughed, up to a maximum of £1,875 per month. Employees must receive 80% of their usual wages up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. Employers will have to make up the difference between the government payment and what the employee should receive. More information about the scheme is at [coronavirus \(COVID-19\): work and financial support](#) and [coronavirus \(COVID-19\): business support](#).

CO2 monitor delivery

The first deliveries of CO2 monitors started on Monday 6 September to special schools, alternative provision and residential schools. The next delivery schedule is now available to view on the [ventilation document sharing platform](#). This delivery schedule covers the remaining special schools, alternative provision and residential schools and deliveries to the first set of secondary schools. We will continue to inform you of updated delivery schedules via the COVID-19 sector email over the coming weeks. We expect all deliveries to have taken place by the end of the autumn term. The delivery schedules set out which settings are expected to receive monitors over a two-week period.

If you have any queries about your expected delivery date, please check the delivery schedule in the first instance. To query a missed delivery, you can contact Rexel on 0330 0450 606.

For any further queries about your DfE issued CO2 monitor(s), you can call the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687.

A 'how to' guide on using CO2 monitors in education and childcare settings is available on the [ventilation document sharing platform](#).

The **educational setting status form** will continue with daily reporting from Friday 1 October

Thank you to all the schools and colleges that have been completing the [educational setting status form](#) this month. The data you provide has been crucial in shaping the government's response to COVID-19. Given the value of this data, the educational setting status form will continue with daily reporting from today, Friday 1 October. This will be kept under review and we will move to weekly reporting when the national situation allows.

Please continue to submit the form each day by 2pm.

The data you provide helps the government to understand what is happening on the ground in schools and colleges and adapt its approach accordingly. Completing the form improves our understanding of how the pandemic is impacting schools and colleges and allows us to better support you.

Further information on completing the educational setting status form, can be found in our [guidance](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

PCR test expiry dates

To ensure you are using valid tests and, most importantly, to minimise the chance of void results it is important to:

- always take note of the expiry date when conducting inventory management and use the tests in the order they were received
- dispose of any tests that have expired or are within one week of expiry

You can find the expiry date on the side of the outer box or the plastic bag label with the kit. [An example of this can be seen here](#).

If you have any questions about this, please contact 119 for assistance.

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.

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](#)

[Reported coronavirus \(COVID-19\) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings](#)

This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week. Added data for weeks beginning 6 and 13 September; 1028 falling to 855 cases.

Updated: 4 October 2021

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic: 23 March 2020 to 30 September 2021](#)

A summary of attendance in education settings up to 30 September 2021.

Updated: 5 October 2021

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020. The Department for Education has been collecting LA-level data on early years childcare provision since April 2020 on a weekly, and until summer 2021 on a fortnightly, basis. Data collection was paused over summer, resuming on 16 September 2021 for the start of the 2021/22 academic year. This data has been crucial to the Department during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure it holds timely data on the use of childcare, and we are incredibly grateful to LAs and providers for taking the time to send it to us during this time. In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics we recently sought views on making some changes to the early years data collection. Having reviewed the needs of a range of users, we have decided to continue collecting and publishing data on early years childcare provision but on a monthly basis, for the rest of the year. We will review and seek views on future plans towards the end of the autumn term. There is no data added this week.

Updated: 5 October 2021

Childminders

[Childminder agencies: a guide](#)

Guidance for anyone wanting to register and operate as a childminder agency. Removed 'A guide for childminder agencies (applies until 30 September 2021)' as no longer applies.

Updated: 1 October 2021

[PCR testing at Montem for Slough residents \(including school staff and extended school communities\)](#)

The compliance Manager for COVID Testing Services has confirmed that Montem testing site in Slough remains open and is still undertaking PCR tests.

The centre has reduced the number of testing bays they have so it does get booked up quickly. In which case, you may find yourself redirected to Heathrow or Hillingdon if the online booking portal is at full capacity.

However, walk-ins are allowed and you will be seen if you cannot make a booking.

EYFS

[Early years foundation stage profile handbook](#)

This handbook supports EYFS practitioners in making accurate judgements about each child's attainment. Updated early years foundation stage profile handbook for 2022, to align with the statutory roll out of the EYFS reforms.

Updated: 6 October 2021

[Implementing the early years foundation stage reforms](#)

Videos for practitioners assessing children's development at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS). [Three videos to watch](#)

Updated: 6 October 2021



Birth to five matters

In this video Dr Rose Drury talks with Donna Gaywood about supporting children who speak English as an additional language (EAL). Rose outlines practical ways to work with bilingual children and the richness multi language speakers can bring to settings.



https://youtu.be/k0F8_DUB4Uo

News and events

The next **#LookCloser** awareness week is starting on **Monday 11th October 2021**.

#LookCloser is a partnership campaign between The Childrens Society, the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and the British Transport Police aiming to raise awareness of child exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on public spaces. The campaign also seeks to challenge stereotypes of victimhood, highlighting that child exploitation can happen anywhere, and any young person can be a victim.

During the week, The Childrens Society's Prevention Programme will be co-ordinating a virtual **Programme of Learning**. See attached timetable and session descriptions for more information about the programme of learning and details on how to book your place. Spaces are limited so we recommend booking a place as soon as possible.



10. Look Closer_Programme of Learning.pdf

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Webinars and Resources Programme (Autumn 2021)

Please see below the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Webinars and Resources Programme (Autumn 2021); this is a great opportunity for staff and wider professionals to access training on CYP emotional wellbeing and mental health. Also it provides links for local and national resources.

It's **World Mental Health Day on Sunday 10 October 2021** – in the National Resources section (page 20) you will find some useful information and resources on CYP mental health for education settings.



Emotional Health and Wellbeing Webinars Resources (Autumn programme) - Oct 2021.pdf



Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

36,498 followers

16h

Anne Freud are offering a free webinar on **early years staff wellbeing**, which will help put staff wellbeing at the heart of your early years setting.

Click on the link below for further information and to book on:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anna-freud-centre_early-years-staff-wellbeing-training-activity-6851178362803646464-02xA



Slough Early Years first kitemark certificates awarded

January saw the launch of the Early Years health and wellbeing accreditation. It was created by the children and families team, in partnership with Public Health. The aim of the initiative is to help improve the health and wellbeing of children and their families. Early years settings across the borough have been invited to sign up for the accreditation, which supports them to promote and establish the health improvement messages and practices that should form the foundation of their childcare provision.

The rollout was a positive one, despite the challenges of being in the midst of a pandemic, with settings realising the need for such an initiative in Slough. So far, 34 settings have signed up for the accreditation and have begun work that requires assessments in the four areas of: health and wellbeing, nutrition and oral health, physical activity, and emotional and mental wellbeing.

Settings are required to provide evidence that shows how they are helping to tackle health inequalities and enabling families to have a better health outcome. A panel of health professionals evaluate submitted evidence, and the setting is graded with their achieved level of accreditation. Levels of accreditation range from bronze to platinum, with the setting receiving a framed certificate of award, and finally an engraved plaque for achieving platinum.

The accreditation not only highlights areas for improvement but allows providers to showcase the great work they are doing in the local area. Three of our settings have now reached the stage of accreditation and were recently presented with their certificates by Cllr Natasa Pantelic and Cllr Christine Hulme.

Debbie Haden, local childminder and owner of Debbie's Dinkies, said: "We've thoroughly enjoyed making progress through the kitemark accreditation, it has made us more aware of how important and beneficial health and wellbeing is for Early Years children. Which also enables the children to make the best possible start in life."

Aakanksha H Gushani, nursery manager at Bright World Nursery, said: "At Bright World Nursery, we are committed to contributing towards healthy outcomes for young children. We are excited to have achieved our gold award, and to be able to showcase the quality of our provision. This initiative has helped us to promote and establish the best health improvement messages and practices for our children and families."

Lin Meade, Early Years Professional, Monksfield Way Children's Centre, said: "Taking part in the kite mark has been a rewarding experience for the whole team. It has helped us to recognise the support we as Children's Centres already give to the families that use our services, as well as identifying areas we can further develop. We look forward to continuing to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of each child and family that we come into contact with."

Councillor Natasa Pantelic, cabinet member for social care and public health, said: "We're delighted to be presenting these awards today, and would like to thank all the providers for their continued hard work. It's been a pleasure meeting the children and staff of these three wonderful settings. We hope other settings will continue to sign up for this accreditation."

Councillor Christine Hulme, cabinet member for children's services, lifelong learning & skills, said: "We are so proud of our early year's workforce in Slough and these kitemark awards continue to allow our practitioners, childminders, nursery staff and teachers to give the best start to our youngest residents."



Please find below the link to the third edition of the Outdoor Practitioner an e-magazine by Muddyfaces. This issue looks into the colourful and changing season of autumn, including the importance of nature connections; building a relationship with nature, some lovely creative ideas such as going for a scavenger hunt and making an autumn hanging mobile with your treasure and also a focus on celebrating Forest School Day, around 8th October. Even if you are not a Forest School, plan sometime outside and enjoy whatever the weather throws at you (make sure you check the weather report and come prepared with the right clothing and footwear!!!)

[Outdoor-Practitioner_Autumn-2021_issue-3.pdf \(muddyfaces.co.uk\)](https://www.muddyfaces.co.uk/Outdoor-Practitioner_Autumn-2021_issue-3.pdf)



Most important of all – be the positive role model for your children and families and make time to embrace all the outdoors has on offer.....

Sharon Rose
Interim Senior Advisory Teacher EYFS & EYFS Moderation Manager

