

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Health and Safety Phone Conference Tomorrow Wednesday 20th May 10.00 -11.30am

I am pleased to inform you that tomorrow morning, Wednesday 20th May, 10-11.30am, the local authority Health and Safety Team will be leading a Health and Safety phone-in for headteachers. They will also be joined by Liz Morgan, the Director of Public Health, Karen Hearne and Mark Cusack.

Joining details will be provided in a separate email to headteachers today. Apologies, again, for the short notice but we are trying to get these conferences arranged prior to both half-term and schools potentially reopening.

HR Conference Today

Thank you to all those people that joined in this afternoon's HR conference. The presentation that Christina Ponting worked through at the conference can be found at:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HT-Update-May-Planning-to-Return-to-School-NCC.pptx>

Letter from Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Children's Services

Following the letter sent out last Friday to all headteachers, Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Children's Services, has sent you a second letter today that further clarifies the local authority's position on the reopening of schools. If you don't receive the letter, please let [Deborah Anderson](#) know.

DFE Updates

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

What schools need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Section 19.4 has been updated to clarify how meetings should proceed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

Managing school premises during the coronavirus outbreak

Guidance for schools and other educational settings on managing premises during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Information has been added on preparing for the wider opening of schools including guidance on water systems, ventilation, fire safety and cleaning.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-school-premises-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

£37 million to support children with complex needs

The DfE has issued a press release on a multi-million-pound settlement that will help low-income families with seriously ill or disabled children with the cost of equipment, goods or services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/37-million-to-support-children-with-complex-needs>

Testing now available to anyone with symptoms of coronavirus

The government has announced that anyone with symptoms of coronavirus is now eligible to book a test, ahead of the rollout of the test and trace service. Anyone experiencing a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia) can book a test.

A coronavirus test can be booked here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Essential workers in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland, can apply for priority testing through GOV.UK. A coronavirus test can be booked here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>

School Transport

See below for an update from Mark Cusack, School Passenger Transport Manager:

Following the recent Government announcement, we will provide school transport for eligible children in Y0, Y1 & Y6 (& where requested Y10 & Y12) in addition to eligible children of key workers and other vulnerable groups from 1st June. The inevitable rise in the number of children accessing the school transport service will create challenges with implementing social distancing rules. These will need to be carefully assessed on a case by case basis.

Given the uncertainties regarding whether parents will be sending their children to school and whether they will wish to use school transport, we are considering a process where parents would need to indicate if they require transport by contacting their transport provider directly and to inform them on what days they require transport. The operator would then put the necessary arrangements in place. The operator would be required to inform the Council who they are transporting via a weekly return to the school transport team. If, because there are too many children requiring a place on the same vehicle, the operator is unable to comply with the social distancing rules in the guidance we will issue to them, then the operator will be required to contact the school transport team for advice.

Once finalised, the school transport team will write to parents of reception age, Y1 & Y6 children and to contracted transport providers to advise them of the arrangements in more detail. This correspondence will also cover all safety measures that will need to be complied with where school transport is provided.

If you have any questions, please contact: [Mark Cusack](#), School Passenger Transport Manager Tel 01670 624081.

School Improvement: 'News and Inspiration'

The School Improvement Team has created, so far, two online editions of 'News and Inspiration'. They have been on the School Improvement Team padlets of resources and on School 360. You can find them at:

[News and Inspiration \(Edition 1\)](#)

[News and Inspiration \(Edition 2\)](#)

Music Partnership North Newsletter

The new Music Partnership North Summer 2020 COVID19 Special Newsletter can be found at: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/MPN-Newsletter-Summer-2020.pdf>