

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Very Important Message from Liz Morgan, the Northumberland Director of Public Health.

Dear Head Teacher

Although NHS Test and Trace is in place, it is likely that on some occasions, schools may hear about COVID 19 positive results in pupils or teachers (or indeed their families) before our local PHE Health Protection Team does. This is because the transfer of data from laboratories to PHE is not usually immediate. If schools do hear about a positive case in a pupil or staff member, please continue to contact PHE on **0300 303 8596 option 1**. Schools are reminded that:

- For children or staff who become symptomatic at the school, the advice is that the staff member is sent home and the child isolated in a separate room until they can be collected. In both cases, arrangements should be made by the child's parent/guardian or the staff member to be tested. The current advice is that **it is not necessary to send home any contacts of the person with symptoms until or if the test result is confirmed as positive**. The majority of people with symptoms of COVID 19 who are tested have a negative test result so please resist pre-empting the outcome of the test. Sending children or staff home at this stage is at odds with the current advice.
- If you are advised by a child's parents/carer or a staff member that they have developed symptoms whilst at home, please advise them to make arrangements to be tested. Again, **it is not necessary to send home any contacts within the school until or if the test result is confirmed as positive**.

- If you are advised that **a child or staff member has tested positive for coronavirus, then please contact PHE** (if they haven't already been in contact) on the number above who will advise on the correct course of action in terms of identifying contacts and providing advice on self-isolation and cleaning. Again, schools are requested not to pre-empt the advice from PHE.
- In principle, a contact of a contact should not be considered to be a case. If, for instance, a parent of a child tests positive, that child will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days. Children in the same class as the child are only contacts of a contact so should remain at school. Should the child develop symptoms, PHE will review the situation.

If you are aware of a child or staff member who is symptomatic but who hasn't yet been tested, please contact the Council's Public Health team at: publichealthincidentalalerts@northumberland.gov.uk.

Key workers who develop symptoms can access testing by going to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test-if-youre-an-essential-worker>.

For any pupils or family members who develop symptoms, they can access the [NHS website](#) for testing and advice. They should do this as soon as possible after developing symptoms.

Finally, we are aware that three schools have been approached by Public Health England to participate in the schools COVID 19 surveillance study (announced here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/study-launched-to-monitor-prevalence-of-covid-19-in-schools>

END OF MESSAGE

Weekly Safeguarding and Monitoring Returns

Thank you once again for your ongoing attention to this task; your cooperation is enabling a truly robust analysis of the situation for our vulnerable learners. We know that we are ahead of other areas in achieving this level of scrutiny. The deadline for returns this week is once again tomorrow at 5pm.

Locality Headteacher Meeting Tomorrow, Thursday

Just a reminder that our Locality Headteacher meeting will be at **2pm tomorrow, Thursday 11th June**.

If you have changed your representative headteacher or need the joining details, can you let [Deborah Anderson](#) know as soon as possible, please.

DfE Updates

An update from the Secretary of State for Education on wider opening of education and early years settings

In a statement made yesterday in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Education said that the DfE talked about the phased return of education and childcare settings and allowing schools that have the capacity to bring back more children in smaller class sizes to do so before the summer holidays. It also said that further details would be forthcoming in the coming days. The statement in full can be found here:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-06-09/debates/1FB411B2-E5C6-4E6B-A9F2-1DDBF5F5E8B1/EducationSettingsWiderOpening>

Awarding qualifications in summer 2020

Information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers has been updated to include: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=b6e4c4c1-6827-42ac-a794-85dc76da7703&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

EdTech Demonstrator Programme launched to help schools and colleges provide education remotely

The DfE has launched the EdTech Demonstrator programme. This is a network of schools and colleges funded to provide peer-to-peer support on making the best use of technology to support remote education.

EdTech Demonstrators are schools and colleges across the country that exemplify excellence in their use of technology. These establishments will provide training through webinars and recorded content, as well as direct and bespoke support for the schools and colleges that need it most. This includes training on how to use digital education platforms effectively (such as Google G Suite for Education, Microsoft Office 365, etc.) to support pupil's education and to communicate effectively with the school community. It will also cover related content on digital safeguarding, supporting pupil and teacher wellbeing remotely and using technology to help support the needs of students with special educational needs and disability (SEND). Support can be tailored to the needs of your school or college and will be based on your start point, confidence in technology practices and the time available to senior leaders to engage in this continued professional development offer.

The programme is free to all state-funded schools and colleges across England. Those new to the use of digital education platforms or in receipt of devices from DfE, are particularly encouraged to engage in this programme.

Schools can find out more about the programme and register your interest in receiving free support here: <https://edtech-demonstrator.lgfl.net/>.

Guidance on safeguarding and remote education can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Funding available for set-up and training on digital education platforms Funding from the DfE is available to access expert technical support to get set-up on either Google's G Suite for Education or Microsoft's Office 365 Education.

Digital education platforms can help schools to:

- assign and assess work, providing feedback remotely
- communicate with staff, pupils and parents, using written word, voice and video
- facilitate collaboration between groups of pupils and teachers
- open-up opportunities to broadcast assemblies and lessons to pupils

Schools and academy trusts can apply for funding through The Key:

<https://covid19.thekeysupport.com/covid-19/deliver-remote-learning/make-tech-work-you/digital-education-platform-hub/>

Online schools accreditation scheme

I thought that you may be interested in the outcome of this consultation as we do have a small number of pupils in Northumberland that are registered with Online Schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-schools-accreditation-scheme>.

Schools HR update: COVID-19: Quarantine on entering or returning to the UK

The Schools HR Team has produced a guidance document on 'Quarantine on entering or returning to the UK'. It can be found on the Northumberland Education website at:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Schools-HR-briefing-travel-quarantine-090620.docx>.