

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

****IMPORTANT**** [Covid19 School Model Risk Assessment - Version 3](#) ****IMPORTANT****

The latest revision of the model school risk assessment template is now available and can be accessed [via this link](#). This incorporates government guidance for schools fully reopening from September; however, it is likely that further revisions may be needed as further government guidance is expected later this month.

As with the last revision, the changes made to the risk assessment have been highlighted in green text to make the process of updating your own school risk assessment easier. Sections which can now be removed have been '*striked out*'. Further information on the changes made are also detailed in the table at the end of the document.

Headteachers should ensure that the final version of their risk assessment is in place prior to the commencement of the Autumn term, following consultation with staff. *A copy should also be shared with relevant unions.*

Please ensure that previous versions of your own risk assessment are retained so it is clear what arrangements were in place within the school at any given time. Consideration should also be given, in the interest of transparency, to making a copy of your risk assessment available on the school website. This is something which the HSE has indicated they would expect to see; however, the final decision on this lies with the Head/Governing Body.

Previously issued school specific health and safety information can also be found on the [Corporate Health and Safety team area of the NCC staff portal](#).

The Corporate Health and Safety Team are able to provide advice on specific issues or concerns and can be contacted via healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk or by contacting one of the school health and safety advisors:

Amanda Young / Nigel Chopping / Bryony Smith / John Froud

Northumberland Schools HR Update

See below for the link to the latest Northumberland Schools HR Update which has a focus on headteacher wellbeing and the governing body's responsibilities in relation to this:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Schools-HR-Update.docx>

The two documents that are referred to in the Schools HR Update can be found here:

1. <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/workforce-education-NEOST-Staff-Wellbeing-guide-for-schools-and-trusts-16-June-2020-1.pdf>
2. <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Schools-Employee-Wellbeing-factsheet-Covid-19.pdf>

DfE Updates

UPDATE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Catch-up Premium

Information for schools on the universal catch-up premium for 2020 to 2021 and the National Tutoring Programme. It includes how much funding schools will get and how it should be spent.

The DfE has added links to the new National Tutoring Programme website.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catc-h-up-premium>

CONSULTATION OUTCOME: Proposed Changes to the Assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021

The DfE has published the final outcomes and details of decisions added, as well as an analysis of the responses and an annex to explain the planned changes for individual subjects and qualifications.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021?utm_source=0e439d4e-8628-42ec-b81b-c75b1f565875&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

OFQUAL PRESS RELEASE: Exams and Assessments in 2021

Ofqual confirms the changes to GCSEs, AS and A levels next year, following consultation, and publishes new proposals for adjustments to VTQs.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021?utm_source=53bfc611-043a-428f-9f13-5a4ca078c1fd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

NEW INFORMATION: Local lockdowns: Guidance for Education and Childcare Settings

What schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders, early years and other educational settings need to do if there's a local lockdown during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The DfE has added information about the local lockdown in Greater Manchester, East Lancashire and West Yorkshire and a link to 'North of England: local restrictions' guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-lockdowns-guidance-for-education-and-childcare-settings>

UPDATED GUIDANCE: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Reducing burdens on educational and care settings

List of data collections, services or requests which will be cancelled, paused or will continue.

The DfE has updated the list of collections which have been cancelled or are now due to continue.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reducing-burdens-on-educational-and-care-settings>

NEW INFORMATION: Buying for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The DfE has provided information for buyers in schools and those who manage supplier contracts, including procurement policy notes (PPN), free school meals, personal protective equipment (PPE) and temporary staff.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/buying-for-schools/buying-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

STATUTORY: Attendance and COVID19

The [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#) have been laid before Parliament. The Regulations which will come into force on 24 August amend existing Regulations to introduce a new way of recording a pupil's non-attendance where the non-attendance is related to coronavirus. The provisions will insert a requirement to record a pupil as not attending due to coronavirus where their non-attendance takes place in the school year 2020-21 and their travel to or presence at the school would be contrary to relevant guidance or legislation relating to the transmission of coronavirus. The Regulations will be kept under review by the Secretary of State.

FREE Webinar - Childhood Trauma: Supporting healing and recovery in schools after lockdown - 27th August 2020, 4.00 pm, Free Event

Funded by the DfE, this webinar session will introduce principles that can be used by teachers and school leaders to identify the signs that pupils have experienced trauma during lockdown, and how to respond. This will be led by Dave Roberts from the Mulberry Bush Organisation in Oxfordshire, which specialises in teaching primary aged children made vulnerable by their severe Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties.

This webinar includes a presentation and Q&A session and will run for 90 minutes. Details are available here:

<https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/training-events/webinar-childhood-trauma-supporting-healing-and-recovery-in-schools-after-lockdown.html>

RECENT EDUCATION / SCHOOL ARTICLES FROM THE NEWS

SKY NEWS: Government says schools are safe

The Government has said that schools will be safe to open in September, amid claims it has not given enough clarity to teachers over new procedures to combat the spread of coronavirus. It comes as teaching unions called for greater clarity for school leaders, teachers and parents about what the relaxation of lockdown measures will mean for the reopening of schools in September.

[Sky News Online](#)

DAILY TELEGRAPH: Schools should be classified alongside nuclear plants to stop lockdown closures

A coalition of academics and business leaders have written a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to classify schools as “critical national infrastructure” which could prevent them being shut down during outbreaks.

[Telegraph](#)

BBC NEWS: Pubs ‘may need to shut’ to allow schools to reopen

Professor Graham Medley, a scientist advising the Government, has said pubs or “other activities” in England may need to close to allow schools to reopen next month. He said there may need to be a “trade-off” with the opening of schools seen as a “priority” for children’s wellbeing.

[BBC Online](#), Sky News, Observer

BBC NEWS: Teachers’ union urges clarity on school reopening

Patrick Roach, the General Secretary of the NASUWT teachers’ union, has said teachers and parents need “greater clarity” on the reopening of schools amid a rise in coronavirus cases. Mr Roach said teachers need extra details to prepare for pupils’ return.

[BBC Online](#), Observer

SUNDAY TIMES: Schools’ plan B for autumn spike: online lessons for all

Schools are preparing to continue teaching pupils at home in case a second wave of coronavirus prevents them from reopening in the autumn. From September, Ofsted inspectors will also be sent into schools previously rated inadequate to make sure they can teach classes remotely as well as on site.

[Sunday Times](#)

BBC: Testing and tracing ‘key to schools returning’

Scientists have warned that current testing and contact tracing is inadequate to prevent a second wave of coronavirus after schools in the UK reopen. They also say increased transmission would result from parents not having to stay at home with their children.

[BBC Online](#)

Testing squads to help schools remain open in virus hotspots

Testing squads are to be sent to schools in areas of high infection to attempt to keep them open even during local lockdowns. Regular checks for pupils and teachers with no symptoms in hotspot areas are being considered.

[The Times](#)