

Headteachers' Update

The 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Welcome to our second briefing this week.

Locality Headteacher meeting

Today with full representation the following agenda items were discussed at length with support from NCC specialist teams to support headteachers:

1. Outbreak Control- Public Health England – Northumberland response and support
2. Health and Safety updates including HSE announcement to undertake spot calls and visits to schools
3. Human Resources – support for staffing concerns, procedures and practices
4. DFE Attendance tool
5. Head Teacher Question Time

Please check with the chair of the locality partnership to ensure your questions are answered.

Northumberland response and support for local outbreak plans – COVID cases in schools

There has been some confusion in schools nationally in terms of the guidance on when students should isolate and the following might help provide clarity:

- If a student displays symptoms of coronavirus, (i.e. a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they should self-isolate, arrange to be tested immediately and await the results of the test.
- If a student then tests negative, they can return to school when feeling well and the rest of the household can stop self-isolating.
- If a student receives a positive test result, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days.

- If a student lives with someone (or is attached to a support bubble with someone) who is displaying the symptoms listed above, they must isolate within their home - even if they are not displaying symptoms themselves - until the symptomatic person is tested and receives the results of their test.
- If the symptomatic test is negative and the symptoms are gone, the student can return to school and the rest of the household can stop self-isolating.
- If their test is positive, the student and the rest of their household must isolate for 14 days.
- If a student has recently returned from one of the countries on the government's list, they should self-isolate for 14 days from the day of their return.
- If a student is contacted by the NHS Test and Trace system and told to isolate, they should do so and must not attend school.

Gaining all this information will require close and ongoing contact with parents.

All Covid related issues should be recorded on this webform:

https://form.northumberland.gov.uk/form/auto/covid19_schools

The webform is your best link to further support. If you have a historical Covid case not already recorded via the webform please record it there in retrospect, this will greatly support the ongoing work of Public Health in Northumberland.

If your case is complex this will be picked up by the monitoring of the webforms which, via alerts, is constant and the LA Public Health team will be in contact with you.

Guidance

Educational psychologists: support for coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery

The Department for Education wants to build temporary educational psychologist capacity in England to support schools and colleges returning in September.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/educational-psychologists-support-for-coronavirus-covid-19-recovery>

(September 8th 2020)

Public Health England launches new Every Mind Matters campaign

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-every-mind-matters-campaign>

Mental health campaign supports the wellbeing of children, young people and their parents

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Guidance for schools and FE providers on ordering additional coronavirus test kits

All schools and FE providers have been provided with a small number of coronavirus test kits for use in line with guidance published by the Department for Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers>

You should have now received this initial order; if you have not, please call the Test and Trace helpdesk at 119.

The fastest way to get a test result is to go to a testing site. Individuals will need a pre-booked appointment or they will not be given a test. People can also order home test kits to be sent directly to them. To book an appointment or order a home kit, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. These routes remain the primary channels for any individuals displaying coronavirus symptoms to get a test.

Special School Guidance – update

[Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings](#)

Main changes since this guidance was last updated - The following information has been updated:

- changes to SEND legislation
- use of face coverings in settings
- the framework for supporting transport to and from settings
- pupils who are shielding or self-isolating
- actions for all schools and local authorities with regards to recording attendance and absence
- employer health and safety and equalities duties
- support available for schools with regard to supply teachers
- performance management and appraisal for teachers
- health and safety
- music, dance and drama in school
- wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity
- physical activity in schools
- new resources available for pupil wellbeing and support
- behaviour expectations
- primary assessment
- additional resources available for delivering remote education
- health and safety risk assessments for those with an EHC plan

Making an order for additional coronavirus tests

Schools and FE providers should order additional test kits if they have run out or are running out of test kits.

The portal will open for you to apply for more test kits on the 16 September, via this link:

<https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk>.

Kits will be supplied in boxes of 10. The number of boxes available to each school or FE provider will be proportionate to your size. You will be able to make a new order for coronavirus test kits 21 days after you receive a delivery confirmation email telling you we have sent your kits.

Schools and FE providers will need a Unique Organisation Number (UON) to place orders for test kits. You will receive your UON by email to this email address on or before 16 September. After this date, please call the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119 if you have not received your UON.

Join our webinar for schools and FE providers

We are hosting a series of webinars to support you in understanding how to use the test kits we are sending to education settings.

During these webinars we will give you guidance on who should receive these kits, what they will look like and how they should be used. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We strongly encourage each school to sign up to one of the webinars. We are updating our content after each webinar to capture questions and feedback from the previous webinars.

These webinars are being run on the following dates:

- Friday 11th September at 12.30-13.30
- Monday 14th September at 15.30-16.30
- Wednesday 16th September at 16.30-17.30
- Friday 18th September at 13.30-14.30

Link to sign up for all webinars at

https://event.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1363338&tp_key=0aeafdc392

Help us to support you in the most effective way: complete our survey

We are running two short surveys for schools to share their experience of the testing service: one now before you have distributed most of your kits, and one after you have used the kits. Please complete this first survey to help us understand how we can provide the most effective service to you. The survey should take no more than five minutes to fill out.

<https://dhexchange.kahootz.com/connect.ti/COVID19Hometestinghsurvey/viewQuestionnaire?qid=6667875&done=OBJChangesSaved>

Who to contact in an emergency

If at any stage someone at your institution cannot cope with the symptoms or their condition significantly worsens, use the <https://111.nhs.uk/COVID-19> service. If you do not have internet access, dial NHS 111. In a medical emergency, dial 999.

Early intelligence shows “confidence in action” as 99% of schools open

A new post, “Early intelligence shows “confidence in action” as 99% of schools open” has just been published on the Education in the media blog. During his press conference yesterday, the Prime Minister said that around 99 per cent of schools are open and the signs are that attendance has started well, describing the picture as “confidence in action”. You can read the full post [here](#).

Guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[Providing school meals during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Change made - Updated the guidance on the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups. This update removes references to the Covid Summer Food Fund and COVID-19 specific terminology.
(10 September 2020)

School Admissions Application Process - September 2021

The application process for Middle (year 5), High (year 9) and Secondary (year 7) school places starts again this week. The portal opens on 12th September and closes on 31st Oct. Please can you remind parents to apply online before the deadline. Late applications may result in pupils not securing a place in their preferred school. The School Admissions Team will contact schools during October with the names of those yet to apply so you can issue another reminder.

For more information please see our web page (<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1.aspx>) or contact the team directly using the following email address:

schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk.

Qwell

As you are aware, Qwell will be available to support teachers and teaching assistants in schools from September 14th. This [letter](#) provides details of stakeholder events for you/your staff to register for in order to find out more, and contact details for the regional coordinator who can provide promotional materials and other information on request.