

Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

New National Restrictions from 5 November

The government have published guidance outlining the new national restrictions to come into force on Thursday. The national guidance can be viewed [here](#). The education specific guidance can be found [here](#).

The key points (courtesy of ASCL) are as follows:

Face coverings, rotas and tiers

- Face coverings will be mandatory in communal areas of secondary schools and colleges. They will still not be recommended in classrooms.
- In primary schools, the use of face coverings in communal areas will remain at the discretion of individual schools.
- Face coverings will be mandatory for pupils in Year 7 and over on dedicated school transport.

Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and pupils

- Both staff and pupils who have been identified by their doctor as still considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), will be advised not to come into school or college. The [government guidance](#) on shielding and CEV people has been updated to reflect this position. Schools will be expected to provide remote learning for any pupils in this category.
- Pregnant women are not classified as CEV, and therefore will still be expected to come into work, unless their doctor advises otherwise.
- Pupils and staff who live with people who are CEV, but are not CEV themselves, are still expected to come into school or college.
- The full CEV guidance is available [here](#).

Curricular and extra-curricular activities

- PE, sport, music, dance and drama lessons can continue in line with the current guidance – during school time.
- Schools must only provide team sports listed on the [return to recreational team sport framework](#). Competition between different schools or colleges should not take place.
- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so.
- After-school clubs can only continue if their primary purpose is childcare. So wraparound care in a primary school would be fine, but a Year 8 after-school football club would not.
- The current series of exam resits should continue.
- For 16 to 19 study programmes, providers should continue to seek to deliver the majority of education on site unless they have had written public health advice to move some groups to remote teaching.

Remote education good practice

Page summary - Good practice to support school leaders in developing their remote education contingency plans.

Change made - First published .

Remote education webinars

Page summary - How to access school-led webinars on remote education to help share good practice.

Change made - Added links to new webinars for teachers.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel corridors](#)

Page summary - List of countries, territories and regions from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate.

Change made - Cyprus and Lithuania removed from travel corridors exempt list 4am 1 November 2020.

[PE and sport premium for primary schools](#)

Page summary - How much PE and sport premium funding schools receive and advice on how it should be spent.

Change made - Updated sections relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), accountability and how to use funding.

OfSTED “Visits“

OfSTED will continue with their interim visits this term, but they will now be conducted online, rather than face to face. Full details [here](#).

[Covid19 School Model Risk Assessment - Version 4.2 \(and updated FAQ document\)](#)

The latest revision of the model school risk assessment template is now available and can be accessed [via this link](#). This incorporates minor amendments and additions from the latest government guidance for schools fully reopening (updated 22 October). The [health and safety FAQ document](#) has also been updated and is signposted from the risk assessment. This contains more detailed information in relation to specific issues such as ventilation and fire drills.

As with previous revisions, the changes made to the risk assessment have been highlighted (in orange 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.

Your own school Covid-19 risk assessment should be regularly reviewed and the controls in place monitored to ensure they are effective and are being complied with. It would also be good practice to review this following any confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the school.

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.

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 speaking to one of the school health and safety advisors:

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[Covid-19 – Visitors/Contractors attending School Site: Update Form and Checklist v2](#)

The audit and visitor questionnaire issued by the Corporate Health and Safety Team earlier in the year has been reviewed and updated and can be found [here](#). Whilst there are no major changes, the targeted questions directed to visitors regarding close contact exposure and those relating to clinically vulnerable/clinically extremely vulnerable individuals have been updated or removed where appropriate. It is important that schools continue to keep contact details for all visitors for 21 days as this may be needed by the Council's public health team, NHS test and trace service or the local Health Protection Team.

Medical Needs Policy

In December 2019 the Health & Safety team updated the model policy for schools to support Headteachers/Governing Boards with updating their own school specific medical needs policy. Analysis of school websites by LA staff has shown:

- many schools do not host this policy on their website at present
- numerous schools have a policy that is written on an outdated format and have not updated their policy since the new H&S guidance and model policy was produced, i.e.: since December 2019

A detailed briefing, and next steps that all schools need to take are available [here](#).