

Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

DfE Updates

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries](#)

Page summary: Information on rapid asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for staff in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

Change made: Added updated information about reporting delivery and test issues using the form, and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with primary schools, school-based nurseries, and maintained nursery schools, to access guidance and support materials

[Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges](#)

Page summary: Find out how to administer testing which will begin in January 2021.

Change made: Added updated information about reporting delivery and test issues using the form, and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with schools and colleges to access guidance and support materials.

[Pupil premium](#)

Page summary: The government is giving schools extra funding to help improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and other pupils who need extra support.

Change made: Added information about allocation changes from 2021 to 2022.

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Page summary: What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term.

Change made: Updated with latest changes to: system of controls, attendance, recruitment, free schools meals, estates, wraparound care, physical activity in schools, remote education, catch up, assessment and accountability, and exams.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges](#)

Page summary: Information for schools and colleges about testing from January.

Change made: Information about grant funding for the national roll-out of rapid mass testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools and colleges is available.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary: Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Updated the home education section with further information on vulnerable children who have difficulty engaging in remote education. Also added a section on Test and Trace Support Payments.

[Supplier relief for schools](#)

Page summary: How schools and academy trusts should support suppliers through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Change made: First published.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): financial support for education, early years and children's social care](#)

Page summary: Funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children's social care organisations.

Change made: Updated the guidance on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools.

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

Page summary: What all special schools and other specialist settings will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Updated the guidance on rapid asymptomatic testing to include changes to daily contact testing advice, information on the rollout of testing to primary school staff and further guidance on the different approaches to testing.

[Model School Covid Risk Assessment – update \(version 5.2\)](#)

Following an update to the [government guidance](#) for schools issued on Tuesday 2 February, minor revisions has been made to the model risk assessment. Whilst there are no major health and safety changes within the guidance, wording has been strengthened to provide clarity in some areas. In places where the update doesn't warrant an amendment to the model risk assessment (e.g. where we've signposted to national guidance on self isolation requirements) we thought it would be useful to provide a brief outline of these updates below:

- Clarification that anyone (staff or pupil) who lives with someone with Covid19 symptoms, or who has tested positive, should stay away from school.

- If anyone at school (staff or pupils) becomes symptomatic, members of their household should self-isolate from the day the person's symptoms start (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) **PLUS the following 10 full days.**
- Changes to the definition of close contacts - see page 24 of the [guidance](#).
- Ventilation has moved up the hierarchy of control measures – this highlights the importance of maintaining adequate ventilation in occupied spaces.
- Further information on the approach to physical activity and use of external coaches, clubs and organisations.

An update has also been made to the [H&S FAQ document](#)

A further announcement from Government regarding a plan to take the Country out of lockdown is expected week commencing 22 February. Once the date for schools to open fully has been confirmed, it is expected that further revised guidance will be issued. This will warrant a further review of the model covid risk assessment and your own school risk assessment.

As always, the Corporate Health and Safety Team are available to discuss any specific queries you may have regarding the Covid19 arrangements in place within your school. Please speak to a member of the team (Amanda Young, John Froud, Nigel Chopping or Bryony Smith) or email healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk

Wellbeing for Education Return Update

As you will be aware, this DfE funded project was initiated in the Autumn term 2020 as a direct response to the COVID pandemic and lockdown measures. It has been underway in Northumberland since the end of September. Delivery of training to school Senior Mental Health Leads is the main delivery tool. A nationally created training pack forms the backbone of the project as the DfE intention is that all staff in every school across the country will have an increased awareness of early indicators of stress and anxiety in children, young people, and others. The aim was for all schools to have delivered the training to staff by March 2021, and progress towards this target is reported into the DfE.

SMHLS were invited to attend training in November, and the conference was well attended with very positive evaluations. All resources have now been centralised onto a WER [padlet](#).

[Drop in](#) sessions are being offered for anyone who would appreciate some support with the delivery of the training in their setting.

School SMHLS have been asked to complete a yes/no poll indicating whether they have delivered the training already. Information and relevant links were included in the ecourier this week.

For any queries, please contact alison.walker@northumberland.gov.uk.