

Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

DfE Updates

[Face coverings in education](#)

Page summary: Guidance on the use of face coverings for schools and other education institutions that teach people in years 7 and above in England.

Change made: This guidance has been updated to include new guidance on face coverings to support schools and colleges to return to a full attendance on 8 March.

[How to complete the educational setting status form](#)

Page summary: This data will help the government monitor the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on settings, focus support more effectively and keep children safe.

Change made: Added section on 'Recording non-attendance related to coronavirus (COVID-19)' and a list of sub-codes.

[Asymptomatic Staff Testing in Primary Schools and Nurseries](#)

This document set out frequently asked questions in relation to testing in primary schools and nurseries.

Staff Wellbeing Resources

Over the past few months we have been working internally on a padlet of resources related to staff wellbeing specifically for Education and Skills staff. This information was shared with the Headteacher Wellbeing Group, and it was considered that it might be helpful to you to circulate the link to Heads so that it could be made available to staff in schools.

[Staff Wellbeing Resources](#)

The intention is that this is a dynamic set of resources which can be added to by anyone, as what works for one individual (however large or small) may also work for others. We would encourage, therefore, people to send in suggested additions so that we can create and expand a really usable set of material.

[Kate Addison](#), an Assistant Psychologist working with the Educational Psychology team, is coordinating the padlet. Please feel free to send her any suggestions for contributions, and circulate her email address to staff for the same purpose.

School Meals Campaign

LACA the school food people, have launched a promotional campaign - ***"Marching Back to School"***

The idea is start promoting on the 8th of March and to run throughout the month to encourage children in eating hot food again.

The campaign has been created to help schools and staff to facilitate the return of hot lunches once everyone feels safe to do.

There are some excellent posters and resources to assist in advertising your lunch service available to download from -

www.thegreatschoolslunch.co.uk/resources

Home to School Transport

NCC have provided all our transport providers with information to pass onto their drivers and (where employed), passenger escorts as to how they can access the lateral flow tests at community centres across the County.

We will be emphasising to operators all the key control measures that still need to be in place on school transport - clear signage on vehicles as to where to sit, sitting children by year group, maximising social distancing where possible, ensuring fresh air ventilation, regular cleaning of hard surfaces etc.

It would be useful if schools could send the following message via their parent mail facility emphasising the need for their children to wear face coverings.

"Dear Parents/Carers,

If your child uses the home to school transport service, can I ask that you remind them that it remains of the utmost importance that they wear a face covering (if 11 years or older) whilst travelling to and from school each day. Failure to do so may result in children (who are not exempt from wearing them on medical grounds etc) having their access to the service suspended".

Covid Risk Assessments - revised documents

The following model risk assessments have been updated in light of revised government guidance.

- [Covid School Model Risk Assessment – version 6 \(2/3/2021\)](#)
- [Face Coverings Model Risk Assessment – version 4 \(2/3/2021\)](#)
- [NEW Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Rapid Testing on-site \(ATS\) in Secondary Schools](#)
- [NEW Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Rapid Testing of Education Staff and Secondary Age Pupils at Home \(Self-Test\)](#)

Whilst the model risk assessments pick out the key control measures, Headteachers should read, and be familiar with the detail of the relevant government guidance. Model assessments should always be tailored to reflect the specific arrangements in place within their setting and kept under review.

Following the Council's move to Microsoft 365, some schools are reporting difficulties accessing documents. To resolve this, please try opening the links above (and any others sent to you via the e-courier or Head's briefing) in "Incognito Window" (right click on the hyperlink then select Incognito Window or Private Window). If you continue to have difficulties we have also made these available in the Covid section of the [Corporate Health and Safety Website](#).

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

Public Health queries can be directed to the NCC Public Health Team via the [Covid report/enquiry form](#).