

Headteachers' Update

The 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

DfE Updates

[Teaching music in schools](#)

Page summary: Guidance for schools to help teach music at key stages 1, 2 and 3 and progress pupils through the national curriculum.

Change made: First published.

Time updated: 9:30am, 26 March 2021

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

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

Change made: We have updated the information in the operational guidance on Test and Trace support payments, the expectations for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and staff, educational visits, wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity, physical activity in schools and inspections. We have also added guidance on year 11 to 13 exam cohort attendance and provision for the 2021 summer term.

Time updated: 11:58am, 26 March 2021

[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: Changes made to the sections 'Considering group sizes', 'Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing', 'Educational visits and trips', and 'Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable'.

Time updated: 11:58am, 26 March 2021

[Early career framework reforms: overview](#)

Page summary: Details on the offer available to early career teachers and how this will be developed for national roll-out.

Change made: Clarified that schools offering statutory induction will need to replace their induction process from September 2021 and the support which is available.

Time updated: 4:50pm, 26 March 2021

Please note that the LA will still offer an Appropriate Body service and will support schools through the process of change outlined in the document above. Further details will be available in the summer term.

[Summer schools programme](#)

Page summary: Details of the summer schools programme for secondary schools including funding, requirements for running a summer school and best practice evidence.

Change made: First published.

[Asymptomatic testing: secondary schools and colleges](#)

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

Change made: We have updated our guidance to reflect the DHSC announcement that a confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFD test result in England.

[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: Updated with a link to 'Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2021 to 2022' and added information on the requirements of schools.

[Face coverings in schools and colleges to remain in place](#)

Page summary: Face coverings in schools and colleges are to remain in place at start of summer term, following an ongoing review of the evidence and data.

Change made: First published.

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

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

Change made: Updated information about claiming for additional costs, the Winter Grant Scheme and the Covid Local Support Grant, plus further information about free meals in further education.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary: What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Guidance updated to reflect step 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown, on singing in parent and child groups, educational trips, and for staff and children who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Updated the face coverings section on visual communication, visors and exemptions.

Financial support for Parents/Guardians who must take time off work to care for their child while they are self-isolating

Parents or guardians who are on a low income and need to take time off work to care for their child while they are self-isolating may be eligible for financial support from their local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit or Pension Credit
- Their child or young person: is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

Those eligible will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay they receive currently. To allow the Council to process these applications a check must be made with the child's education or childcare setting to verify that they have been instructed to self-isolate.

To achieve this a member of the Benefits Team will contact your school and will provide the child's full name, date of birth, home address, year group, and the start date of the isolation period. All we require is that this information is confirmed as correct.

We can request this information via email and would appreciate a response within 24 hours if possible as we are unable to release payment until these details are confirmed.

School Transport Arrangements for the Summer Term

School Transport would like high and secondary schools to send the following message out to parents/guardians:

"Dear Parents

This message concerns those of you who have children of high school age who access the school transport service. Can you please remind your children that the arrangements put in place earlier this academic year to control the spread of COVID-19 still apply and must be adhered to. They require all children 11 years and older to wear a face covering and it requires all students to sit as instructed by the driver, i.e. within their year group bubble. Since schools fully re-opened on 8th March we have had a number of reports of students not complying with these important rules, thereby putting themselves and fellow students at risk. These arrangements will stay in place until at least the end of this academic year and it is important that everyone plays their part in complying with them".

Updated Covid19 Risk Assessments

Following progression to the next step of the Government roadmap and updated guidance issued to schools, the Corporate Health and Safety Team have updated a number of model Covid risk assessments. Headteachers should update their own school specific Covid risk assessments as appropriate:

[COVID19 - School Risk Assessment - Template \(version 6.1\)](#) - changes incorporated from amendments made to [School Operating Guidelines during Covid](#) (updated on 29 March, 31 March and 6 April).

[COVID19 - Schools - Extremely Vulnerable Staff Risk Assessment - \(V2\)](#) - updated to include change in shielding guidance from 1 April and general control measures, such as wearing of face coverings, lateral flow testing and vaccination of CEV staff. All CEV staff should continue to work from home where possible, where this is not possible it is important that a review of their individual risk assessment takes place, in conjunction with the member of staff, to ensure reasonable adjustments to their work activities are in place and remain valid.

[Covid19 Schools - Pupils – CV/CEV Risk Assessment - COVID19 \(v1.1\)](#) - updated to include change in shielding guidance from 1 April and general control measures, such as wearing of face coverings, lateral flow testing. A review of individual risk assessments/school healthcare plans should take place to ensure these remains valid.

[COVID19 Rapid Testing on Site - Schools - Secondary Settings \(v1.1\)](#) - updated to reflect the requirement for an individual to now have a confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test when the test is carried out on school premises.

If you have difficulties accessing documents via these hyperlinks, please try opening in "Incognito Window" (right click on the hyperlink then select Incognito Window or Private Window).

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](#).

Self-isolation Support for Parents and Carers

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2021/Apr/Self-isolation-support-for-parents-and-carers.aspx>