

Headteachers' Update

The 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

DfE Updates

For schools that received devices via the DfE between April 2020 and April 2021

DfE safeguarding settings expire on 30 September 2021. You need to reset devices and apply your own settings before that date to ensure they're safe for children and young people to use. For further information please click [here](#).

For schools that received devices via the LA between April 2021 and May 2021

If you have not already done so please complete and return your LA device agreement as soon as possible. Should you need a copy please check your calendar appointment as it was attached. Otherwise please contact Dave Cookson,

[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 our guidance in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, including information on face coverings, attendance, pupils travelling to the UK from abroad, educational visits, wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity, music, dance and drama, pupil wellbeing and state-funded school inspection. We have also added further guidance on domestic residential educational visits and a section on transitional, taster and open days

[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 to provide additional guidance on residential visits, which can commence from Step 3. Updated the guidance on use of face coverings, indoor group sizes and parental attendance at out-of-school settings

[Schools and colleges to benefit from boost in expert mental health support](#)

Page summary: 17 million in mental health funding for schools and colleges to help them recover from the challenges of the pandemic.

Change made: First published.

[Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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

Change made: Guidance updated to reflect Step 3 of the Roadmap from 17 May 2021, including visits to Special residential settings (chapter 4), asymptomatic testing (chapter 11), funding (chapter 12), face coverings (System of Controls – Annex A) and confirmatory PCR tests (System of Controls – Annex A).

[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: The guidance has been updated to reflect step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown. Information has been included on staff wellbeing, clinically extremely vulnerable, safe removal of face coverings, attending more than one setting, visits to setting by external professionals, parent and child groups, organised performances, trips, childminders meeting other childminders

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing in schools and colleges: grant funding](#)

Page summary: Conditions of grant funding for the national roll-out of rapid mass testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools and colleges.

Change made: Updated the conditions of grant document for funding for testing.

[Education staff wellbeing charter](#)

Page summary: An explanation of the education staff wellbeing charter and the benefits of using it.

Change made: First published .

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) local restrictions in education and childcare settings](#)

Page summary: How settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Change made: This guidance has been updated with further information on testing and face covering measures.

Time updated: 10:00am, 13 May 2021

Reporting home test results

To aid pupils to remember to report their COVID test results the Communications Team have produced two images that you may wish to use in your newsletters and/or social media. The images are available [here](#). There is also a press release to remind all members of the Northumberland community to report their results [here](#).

Ofsted / CQC SEND Revisit

We have been notified that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will undertake a three day revisit in relation to Special Education Needs and Disabilities in Northumberland. We are currently preparing information/evidence and inspectors from Ofsted and Care Quality Commission will undertake their fieldwork from 19th to 21st May 2021.

It is possible that inspectors may wish to contact your school during the inspection fieldwork. If that's the case, we will let you know in order to make arrangements.

Please contact Audrey Kingham (Audrey.Kingham@northumberland.gov.uk) if you require further information.

EYFS Reforms

Headteachers will find this article useful when reflecting on the EYFS Reforms with their early years staff, in preparation for September - [EYFS Reforms - Update for Headteachers - Priorities, Opportunities and Myths](#). In addition, Northumberland Early Years team continue to run sessions for practitioners on the EYFS Reforms which are available live by booking through the [Early Years Training Programme](#) and as recorded sessions via the Early Years Sharepoint Site. To access the Early Years Sharepoint Site, please contact [Lesley Kelly](#). EYFS Reforms training is free to SLA subscribers.

The Big Ask

Get your child's voice heard and make a difference.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' – the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children and young people what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children and young people tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives.

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in Northumberland to have their voice heard.

Please support the young people you work with to take part in this great opportunity to shape future policy that impact upon them. The Big Ask survey is live from 19th April until 19th May.

[Please click here for the age specific surveys](#) (4-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13-17 and 18+ Care experienced adults).

Updated Covid19 Risk Assessments

Following progression to the next step of the Government roadmap on 17 May 2021, and updated guidance issued to schools on 10 May, the Corporate Health and Safety Team have reviewed and updated a number of model risk assessments to take account of these changes (to come into effect on 17 May). Headteachers should review and update their own school specific risk assessments as appropriate:

- [COVID19 - School Risk Assessment - Template \(version 6.2\)](#) - changes incorporated from amendments made to [School Operating Guidelines during Covid](#) and the next key roadmap date of 17 May. The key changes were covered verbally at the Locality Drop in session on 13 May - see [briefing note](#).
- [Covid19 – Face Coverings – Model Risk Assessment \(version 5.0\)](#) - incorporates changes relating to the wearing of face coverings by pupils/staff in school as documented in the School Operating Guidelines and [Face Coverings in Education](#).

- [NEW Transfer Day Model Risk Assessment](#) – this new model assessment has been developed at the request of Headteachers in relation to planning for transfer/taster days. Please read the note at top of risk assessment; also to be read in conjunction with the briefing document referred to above and the updated [health and safety FAQ document](#).

If you have difficulties accessing any hyperlinks, please try opening these 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](#).