**Covid-19 DfE Guidance Summary Update w/c 11th January 2021**

**Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges**

NHS Test and Trace have developed a Schools & Colleges Handbook with the DfE.

Update: It contains an overview of how to begin rapid Coronavirus testing of staff and students in secondary schools and colleges from January 2021. The appendix to this document contains printable materials to support schools, colleges, parents and carers. There is a step by step ‘How To Guide’ and other materials that are available on the Schools and Colleges document sharing platform for rapid testing. Schools and colleges will receive information and updates on testing in the daily bulletin.

* Staff, pupils and students will be tested using a validated Lateral Flow Device (LFD)
* Initially testing will be provided for secondary pupils, students and staff as they return – they will be offered two LFD tests three to five days apart
* After this staff will be tested weekly on an ongoing basis
* Any pupils or staff showing symptoms should not be attending school and should be self-isolating
* Pupils, students and staff will be tested if they come into contact with a positive case – this daily contact testing allows those who have been in close contact with a positive case to return to their education setting if they agree to be tested for 7 days following the last contact with a positive case and that test is negative
* Swabbing and processing will be conducted on site with results available in around 30 minutes
* Webinars provide details on how to access more support with planning for implementation
* A mandatory online training package is available to enable testing staff to prepare to carry out their role
* Schools will receive funding dependent upon its size
* Participating in testing is voluntary
* Data security and handling – a template Privacy notice has been developed which should be shared with the school community – it is suggested that this be published on school websites and displayed within

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children’s social care**

Update: Guidance has been updated to reflect the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to 30th April 2021. All other details relating to funding remain unchanged from the previous update.

**Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out of school settings**

Update: Who should attend out-of-school settings in line with new national lockdown restrictions (this includes provision for school clubs – further detail to be found on p.41 Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: Schools January 2021)

* Face to face provision should only be offered for children of critical workers where it is reasonably necessary to support their parents or carers to work, seek work, attend a medical appointment or undertake education or training
* Vulnerable children and young people

Update: Group sizes with information on staff bubble ratios

* Decisions on group sizes should be based on government guidance for social distancing, the age and ability of children in attendance to maintain social distancing and practise hand hygiene, the nature of the activity or provision and the size and layout of the premises
* The aim is to minimise the number of different people each child comes into contact with
* Seek to keep children in small consistent groups of no more than 15
* If necessary and dependent upon the type of provision or size of the group, it would be appropriate for one staff member to supervise up to two small groups
* Where there are challenges to achieving consistent groups providers must use their ***best judgement*** in creating and frequently reviewing groups in order to minimise the amount of mixing

Update: Educational visits and trips in line with new national lockdown restrictions

* The Government advises against education visits at this time

Update: Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable to reflect that shielding has been introduced nationally

* Clinically extremely vulnerable staff are advised not to attend the workplace

Update: Music, dance, drama provision to reflect that live performances should not take place

* Providers should not host performances with an audience for the duration of the national lockdown

**Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings**

Update: Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on 4th January 2021 only children of critical workers and vulnerable children and young people should attend school or college. All other pupils and students will receive remote education.

* Please note that the critical workers list is not all embracing as it does not produce a definitive list of roles – ultimately, school leaders will need to make decisions as to whether a parent/carer meets these criteria and be able to explain their rationale

**Guidance for schools: coronavirus**

Update: Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools

How attendance should be recorded:

* Pupils who are not eligible to be in school should be marked as Code X.
* If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be absent, the Department expects schools to grant leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This should be recorded as Code C.

FSM:

* Schools should provide free meals to all pupils in school if they are infants or meet the benefits related free school meals eligibility criteria
* Water should be provided free of charge to registered pupils on the school premises
* Eligible children who are not in school should be provided with food parcels, supermarket vouchers or the DfE’s national voucher scheme which will reopen shortly
* Schools will continue to receive their expected funding for benefits related FSM throughout this period
* To recognise the additional cost of provision for pupils at home schools will be able to claim additional funding – up to £3.50 per eligible pupil per week where food parcels are provided OR up to £15 per eligible pupil per week where vouchers for local shops or supermarkets are being provided
* This support should be initially made available until w/b 8th February when it will be reviewed

Remote education:

* 3hrs per day for KS1 (with less for younger children), 4hrs per day for KS2, 5hrs per day for KS3 & KS4
* This should include both recorded or live direct teaching time and independent working
* Ofsted will inspect schools of any grade where it has significant concerns about the quality of remote education being provided. Such concerns could be triggered by, for example, parents complaining about remote education directly to Ofsted
* Schools should seek to overcome barriers to digital access by distributing school-owned devices or providing printed resources
* Some pupils who have difficulty in engaging in remote education may be considered to be vulnerable children and therefore eligible to attend provision in person. This will be a decision based on local discretion.

Accountability expectations:

* Graded Ofsted inspections will not be reintroduced until the summer term
* Ungraded monitoring visits in the spring term will focus on inadequate schools and some that require improvement
* Ofsted will also have the power to inspect a school in response to any significant concerns
* Statutory KS1 & KS2 tests are cancelled for 2021
* Primary schools should continue to assess pupils to inform teaching, give information to parents and support transition to secondary schools
* GCSEs, A and AS level exams will not go ahead in the summer as previously planned
* Performance tables are suspended for the 2019 to 2020 academic year and no school or college will be judged on data based on exams and assessments from 2020
* Performance data will not be published for the academic year 2020/2021

Update: What to do if a pupil is displaying symptoms or coronavirus (COVID-19) – two-page guidance

* If anyone in school displays symptoms of coronavirus they should be sent home and isolate for at least 10 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus

**Disapplication notice: school attendance legislation changes**

Update: Disapplication of section 444(1) and (1A) of the Education Act 1996 **until 6th February 2021**

* This removes the legal requirement for parents to ensure their child regularly attends school
* It removes the provision for the issuance of penalty notices