

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
1:57pm, 22 February 2021	Links to extra resources added to help keep children safe from online harm.	Coronavirus (COVID-19): keeping children safe online - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:03pm, 22 February 2021	Added the 'Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance' which explains the actions schools will need to take from 8 March. Removed 'What to do if a pupil is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)' as this information is now in the operational guidance.	Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:19pm, 22 February 2021	Withdrawn the 'Education and childcare settings: national lockdown from 5 January 2021' guidance and transferred relevant sections into the updated 'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' guidance.	Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:22pm, 22 February 2021	Updated sections on possible restrictions for primary schools, secondary schools and further education. Added further detail for special schools, special post-16 institutions and alternative provision. Added section for higher education. Clarified when the guiding principles of the contingency framework apply.	Coronavirus (COVID-19) contingency framework for education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:10pm, 22 February 2021	Added 'Additional operational guidance for special schools, special post-16 institutions and alternative provision'. Removed 'Guidance for special schools, specialist post-16 providers and alternative provision during the national lockdown' and 'Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings'.	Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
7:23pm, 22 February 2021	Added 'Evidence summary: COVID-19 – children, young people and education settings' to the collection.	Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 23 February 2021	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 18 February 2021'.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:05pm, 23 February 2021	Added 'Education Act 1996: school registration modification notice March 2021'.	Modification notice: school registration legislation changes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

5:05pm, 23 February 2021	Added 'Education Act 2005: school inspection disapplication notice March 2021'.	Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:48pm, 23 February 2021	Guidance updated to outline who can attend out-of-school settings and what actions providers will need to take from 8 March. Added new sections on advice for pregnant staff members and engaging in asymptomatic testing.	Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:03pm, 24 February 2021	Changed the guidance document 'What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19' to an accessible version.	What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:39am, 25 February 2021	Added reference to Nuffield Foundation to deliver the Nuffield Early Language Intervention.	New education recovery package for children and young people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:59am, 25 February 2021	Guidance has been updated to confirm the 2020 to 2021 accountability position.	Coronavirus (COVID-19): school and college performance measures - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:15pm, 25 February 2021	Added links to pages regarding the announcement made on 25 February 2021.	GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
7:17pm, 22 February 2021	DfE paper summarising evidence in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, particularly around children, young people and education settings.	Evidence summary: COVID-19 - children, young people and education settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:48am, 24 February 2021	A list of registered schools who will be delivering the programme in the 2020 to 2021 academic year.	NELI (Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:30am, 24 February 2021	A research report presenting interim findings from analysis into the progress pupils have made during the 2020 to 2021 academic year.	Pupils' progress in the 2020 to 2021 academic year: interim report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Ofsted Rolling Update:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
3:50pm, 24 February 2021	Updated the 'Current activity' section to reflect our plans from 8 March.	Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DfE Information

New measures to support education recovery

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday on the roadmap for leaving lockdown, the government has today announced further elements of the recovery support package so children and young people can catch up on missed learning and development due to the pandemic.

This will be supported with a new £700 million package for England which includes:

- a new one-off £302 million recovery premium for state primary and secondary schools. This builds on the pupil premium to further support pupils who need it most. The average primary school will receive around £6,000 extra, and the average secondary school around £22,000 extra
- £200 million (from the £300 million announced by the Prime Minister in January to expand the successful tutoring programmes) will be available to fund an £83 million expansion of the national tutoring programme for primary and secondary schools, a £102 million extension of the 16-19 Tuition Fund for a further year; and £18 million funding to support language development in early years
- £200 million (including the final £100 million from the Prime Minister's announcement) will be available to secondary schools to deliver face-to-face summer schools. Schools will be able to target provision based on pupils' needs but the government is suggesting they may want to initially target incoming year 7 pupils. This is alongside wider support funded through holiday activities and food programme across the country
- a range of high-quality online resources will be available for all teachers and pupils, starting from the summer term and throughout the summer holidays. These will be provided by Oak National Academy, to help give pupils the confidence they are ready for the next academic year

Payment of coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery premium

- There is updated our guidance for the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) recovery premium](#) to provide detail on the conditions of the grant and provide further information about payment amounts and dates.
- The first payment of recovery premium funding was paid to providers in late 2020, and the second payment will be made between February and March 2021 as follows:

- local authorities on 26 February 2021
- academies on 8 March 2021
- non-maintained special schools in March 2021

As set out in [earlier guidance](#), one further payment will be made in 2021 based on final allocations.

Further updates following the Prime Minister's announcement

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced the government's plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges, as part of the [roadmap for leaving lockdown](#). You can read a transcript of the [Prime Minister's speech](#) which has now been published.

The DfE have published an [open letter from the Secretary of State for Education to parents](#) about the decision to lift restrictions on education from Monday 8 March. This letter also provides information on the asymptomatic testing programme and safety measures. Alongside this guidance has been updated on [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#) and [parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). You may wish to share this letter and guidance with your parent networks.

Asymptomatic testing of secondary age pupils prior to 8 March

A number of schools and colleges have asked whether they can start testing pupils and students the week before Monday 8 March to help manage the flow of pupils and students through on-site assisted test sites (ATS).

- Schools and colleges may start testing students and pupils before Monday 8 March if they would like to do so. **This is voluntary and at the discretion of each school or college.** Asymptomatic testing is an important tool for helping to break the chains of transmission of the virus and so students and pupils may go to school or college specifically for a test before Monday 8 March if their school or college offers to test them.
- If a school or college chooses to start testing before Monday 8 March, they should still follow the [schools operational guidance](#) or [further education guidance](#).
- Students must maintain social distance and must go home after their test result if the test is before Monday 8 March.
- Students and pupils will still need to do 3 tests on-site (ATS), each 3 to 5 days apart, before moving to home-testing. Schools and colleges should not start home testing students and pupils before the week beginning Monday 15 March.
- Schools and colleges will need to consider the transport implications of testing before Monday 8 March.
- From Monday 8 March, schools will automatically receive a re-stock of test at home kits so that pupils or students can collect them after their third test on-site at the school or college test site. Deliveries will be between Monday 8 March and Monday 15 March – again there is

no need to place an order. The re-ordering process for test at home kits will be in place from Monday 15 March onwards.

- Schools will receive a replenishment of ATS testing kits during the week beginning Monday 1 March to ensure you are ready to test pupils and students on-site at least 3 times when they return. Again, there is no need to place an order for ATS kits. For this reason, the secondary schools and colleges ATS test kit reordering process is currently closed. If you have an urgent need for further testing kits, you may place an order on Monday 1 March. Please follow this [link](#) to see the specific date on which your school or college will receive its test kits.

The frequently asked questions for secondary schools and colleges have been updated to reflect the above.

Asymptomatic testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries, maintained nursery schools – frequently asked questions

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 22 February, [the FAQs](#) have been updated to:

- explain why schools are not testing primary age pupils on return
- reflect that private, voluntary and independent nurseries (PVI) will be included in the programme from mid March – as mentioned in this [blog](#)

Teacher assessed grades for students

Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of the government's plans to ensure young people get to their next stage of education or training.

- The [Education Secretary announced today](#) ***that students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught. No algorithms will be used.***
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by ***Friday 18 June***. This allows as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.
- Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week beginning 9 August – moved forward from the week beginning 23 August. These earlier dates provide additional time for appeals to be completed, so students reliant on those outcomes to achieve their university offer have the best chance of accessing a place.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.

- The Secretary of State for education has sent a [letter to Ofqual's Chief Regulator](#) about how GCSE, AS, A level and vocational and technical qualifications should be awarded in 2021.

The consultation outcomes have been published today. The publications outline the decisions taken to support students and teachers following the consultation:

- [awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#)
- [alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021](#)

Flexibility permitting end point assessment for apprentices

Guidance has been updated on [providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). From 25 February, eligible apprentices can start their end-point assessment before they achieve their functional skills qualifications if they have been waiting for the opportunity to access functional skills assessments but have been prevented from doing so due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

School and college performance measures

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), the DfE have changed their approach to accountability data in 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021. They have published [guidance to explain how school and college accountability will operate in 2020 to 2021](#).

Mentally healthy schools

- This March, Mentally Healthy Schools is building upon its current digital library of resources to add over 100 additional resources for secondary school pupils alongside their existing resources for primary school pupils.
- These free resources will support teachers to help children, young people and their families get the support they need, when they need it.
- To find out more about the free evidence-based mental health resources for students aged 11 to 19, [sign up to the mentally healthy schools newsletter](#).

Ofsted pause inspections of schools and colleges for the week beginning 8 March

- [Remote monitoring inspections of schools](#) graded 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' and [further education providers](#) began on 25 January, with a particular focus on how well children and learners are being [educated remotely](#). These inspections are not graded.
- Ofsted will pause their inspections of schools and colleges for the week beginning 8 March, while they are focused on reopening to all pupils and students.

- For the rest of the term, Ofsted will continue to carry out monitoring inspections remotely by default. However, they will carry out on-site inspections if they have any immediate concerns – for example, about safeguarding or the leadership of a school or college.

National Tutoring Programme – subsidised tutoring available

- All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), to support pupils (aged 5 to 16) who need extra help. The NTP aims to ensure that high quality tutoring is available in all parts of the country to disadvantaged pupils who need the most support to catch up.
- Schools can [search for approved NTP tuition partners](#) and enquire directly with providers. Online tutoring can be provided to pupils at home or in school [during lockdown](#), and can play a key part in re-engagement ahead of the return of classroom teaching. Tutoring can also be booked in for delivery when schools are fully reopened, including as a continuation of tutoring that was previously online.
- This includes specialist provision for supporting students with SEND. 26 of 33 providers are able to support students with SEND, including 17 providers who are able to support students in special school settings.
- The NTP is running [information webinars](#) for all state-maintained schools, where you can hear directly from tuition partner organisations and learn about the subsidy. [Sign up](#) for the national webinar on Tuesday 2 March at 4pm or see if one is running in your area.

Reminder: which school and college staff should be offered asymptomatic rapid testing

- Schools and colleges should offer testing to all staff who are school and college based, including teaching and non-teaching staff members, such as support staff, clinical practitioners and therapists. Non-permanent members of staff should also be offered testing, such as trainee teachers on placement in school and supply workforce. Some staff, for example those employed through the NHS in specialist settings, may have separate arrangements for regular testing.
- There are sufficient supplies to include these staff in the testing programme. [Guidance on how to reorder supplies](#) can be found on the document sharing platform.

Voluntary workforce support for rapid testing

- The DfE are working with the [Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership](#) (VCSEP) and the Department of Health and Social Care, to help schools and colleges access voluntary workforce support to deliver the rapid testing programme.
- The Emergencies Partnership is a coalition of over 250 organisations across England, made up of local voluntary and community groups and larger regional and national

charities. Its members include British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and Volunteering Matters.

- If settings wish to use volunteers to supplement your testing workforce you need to agree a deployment with your local voluntary provider.

You can request additional workforce support through this offer by Monday 1 March through the following routes:

1. Where you already hold local relationships, you can communicate with them directly to seek assistance
2. Where you do not have a prior relationship, you can use this link to access contact details to connect with your local partner [Find a member](#)
3. If you wish to be connected to your appointed local partner, you can email the central VCSEP Mailbox VCSEP@redcross.org.uk

Rapid testing webinar

A further webinar will be held in March which will focus on transitioning pupils and students from testing on-site to testing at home. Further information about this webinar will be provided closer to the time.

For full guidance about the new testing arrangements, including information on funding and delivery arrangements, please refer to the [rapid testing sharing platform](#). On this platform you will find three coloured handbooks:

- Orange – why and when you should do testing, as well as the funding available
- Green – how to set up testing on-site at your school or college
- Blue – how to transition your staff to testing at home

Updated guidance for keeping children safe online

The DfE have updated guidance for [parents and carers to keep children safe online](#). The measures announced over recent weeks to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19), although essential, have disrupted people's day-to-day lives.

As a result of these necessary measures, almost all of us are likely to be spending more time online, including children. This guidance contains resources for parents and carers to help keep their children safe online.

Expansion of asymptomatic testing for early years staff

- The asymptomatic testing programme in education currently covers all staff at school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

- Home testing kits are now being extended to staff in all private, voluntary and independent nurseries. These settings will start to receive deliveries of lateral flow device (LFD) home testing kits to offer to all of their staff for twice weekly testing from next month.
- This is a significant development that will help to identify positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) more quickly and break the chains of transmission. Childminders continue to have access to community testing facilities for asymptomatic testing.
- Home testing will be available for independent training providers and adult community learning providers by the end of March.
- The [education in the media blog](#) details what this means for you.

Face coverings and testing guidance in primary schools

- Anyone experiencing the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be advised to follow to the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)
- The [schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) provides information on the use of face coverings and asymptomatic testing in primary schools from Monday 8 March. The guidance is clear that face coverings are only necessary for pupils in year 7 and above.

A Department for Education spokesperson has said:

“Children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings when they return to school from 8 March.”

The guidance on asymptomatic testing confirms that staff in primary schools will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home. **Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs.**

Public Health England has advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. This will be reviewed in the light of any emerging evidence. All primary school pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March.

Secondary and further education settings – delivery of face coverings to support contingency stock

- In line with Public Health England (PHE) advice, on Monday 22 February, the DfE have temporarily extended its policy on the use of face coverings in education and childcare settings. This change will take effect from Monday 8 March and will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, the face coverings policy will be kept under review and

guidance will be updated accordingly. For more information on the face coverings guidance in your setting, please refer to the [relevant sector specific guidance](#).

- It is expected that most staff, pupils, and students will already have access to face coverings from their wider use in society. However, it is recommended that all settings have a small contingency stock of face coverings available if an individual has forgotten or damaged their own.
- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has a strong stock of PPE including the 'Type IIR' face masks. To support the return to full attendance and ensure maximum compliance with the system of controls, DHSC is distributing 'Type IIR' masks to secondary settings and FE institutions. This supply is for use only as the settings' contingency stock of face coverings.
- Secondary settings and FE institutions should expect to receive a delivery of between 5,000 and 7,500 units by the end of the week commencing Monday 8 March. In the coming weeks, settings may receive further stock depending on the size of the establishment and requirement for contingency face covering stock. We estimate that this stock should be sufficient to cover the settings' contingency stock until at least the Easter holidays.
- ***These face coverings are being provided by DHSC at no cost to your setting. DHSC cannot accept any returns for these items.***
- As outlined in DfE guidance, in primary and early years (EY) settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. Children in these settings should not be asked to wear face coverings.
- For any queries or complaints on delivery or missing items, please contact the DHSC PPE helpline (provided by UNIPART) on 0800 8766802, identifying yourself as an education setting. Alternatively, you can email dfeppequeries@unipart.com and your query will be handled by the helpline team.
- For any questions on DfE face covering policy, please refer to the [DfE guidance](#) or call the DfE coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.

Ofsted consultation on the general qualifications alternative awarding framework

Ofsted must set a framework of conditions and requirements to require awarding organisations to deliver and award qualifications in accordance with the latest policy decisions. Ofsted has launched an [open consultation](#) which explains the conditions and requirements they propose to set. The consultation incorporates 2 further draft documents which Ofsted intends to publish to support centres (the 'centre guidance' and the 'objectivity guidance').

Ofsted is seeking views on the [proposed framework of conditions and requirements](#), they are not seeking views on the underlying policy decisions, which they explained in their [analysis and decisions documents](#) published earlier this week.

This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11 March.