

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
4:21pm, 6 April 2021	Updated 'Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance'.	Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:47pm, 6 April 2021	Updated to reflect changes in requirements for face coverings.	Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:54pm, 6 April 2021	Added information about registering interest for NELI in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.	Catch-up premium: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:28am, 7 April 2021	We have updated advice on the use of face coverings, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and self-isolation. We have removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 Response – spring 2021.	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)
10:29am, 7 April 2021	We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in schools and out-of-school settings and added new guidance on test and trace support payments. We have also removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.	Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:04pm, 7 April 2021	We have updated advice on the use of face coverings in education and updated information to reflect commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.	What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:25pm, 7 April 2021	We've updated the conditions of grant to include the payment arrangements for independent special schools and to clarify some of the important dates.	Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools and colleges: grant funding - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 8 April 2021	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 1 April 2021'.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2:36pm, 8 April 2021	Removed 'Data collections which will continue', 'Data services which will continue' and 'Data collections and services which were cancelled for the 2019 to 2020 academic or financial year'.	Coronavirus (COVID-19): reducing burdens on educational and care settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 13 April 2021	Added 'Laptops and tablets progress data as of 13 April 2021'.	Laptops, tablets and connectivity progress data during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:18pm, 13 April 2021	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.	Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:05pm, 14 April 2021	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.	Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:52pm, 15 April 2021	Updated to reflect that indoor and outdoor supervised activities are now open to all children, as previously announced in the government's 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' roadmap.	Making a childcare bubble with another household - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:03am, 16 April 2021	Gatehouse Awards link updated to reflect new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic advice and support.	Awarding organisation coronavirus (COVID-19) information pages - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
12:00pm, 13 April 2021	How many laptops, tablets and routers we've delivered to help disadvantaged children and young people access remote education.	Laptops, tablets and connectivity data as of 13 April 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DfE Information

Secretary of State for Education address to NASUWT Annual Conference

- On Saturday 3 April, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, addressed the 2021 Annual Conference of teaching union NASUWT to thank teachers for their response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He also spoke about the Early Career Framework reforms and a range of new National Professional Qualifications to give teachers and leaders at all levels training, support and practical guidance helping them to become more effective teachers and leaders inside and outside the classroom.

A [transcript of the speech](#) is now available to read.

Government launches review into sexual abuse in schools

- On Wednesday 31 March, the Secretary of State for Education announced that he has asked Ofsted to undertake a review into sexual abuse across state and independent schools. The review will look at the extent and the severity of the issue and ensure schools have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately. While the majority of schools take their safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously, the Secretary of State for Education is determined to make sure the right resources and processes are in place across the education system to support any victims of abuse to come forward.

DfE has also worked with the NSPCC to set up a dedicated helpline to support anyone who has experienced sexual abuse in educational settings. The dedicated NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663.

The following guidance and advice for schools is available:

- [keeping children safe in education](#)
- [sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- [how to respond to an incident: sharing nudes and semi-nudes](#)

The [announcement](#) is now available to view. Further details on the Ofsted review will be announced in due course.

Twice weekly rapid testing to be available to everyone in England

- On Monday 5 April, the Prime Minister announced that from Friday 9 April all people in England will be able to [access twice weekly rapid tests for coronavirus](#) immediately.

- ***There is no change to the current arrangements for staff and students in schools, colleges or nurseries.***
- Please continue to encourage your staff and students to collect their home testing kits from school or college and continue to report their results as before.
- Parents may wish to consider whether to test children under the age of 11. Advice from Public Health England is that there is currently limited public health benefit from testing primary school age children with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Primary school age children may find the LFD testing process invasive and unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

Face coverings in schools and colleges to remain in place

- On Tuesday 6 April, the government confirmed that [face coverings](#) should continue to be worn in secondary school and college classrooms as a precautionary measure when students return after the Easter holiday.

The following guidance has been updated to align with this announcement:

- [guidance for providers of holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children](#)
- [guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings](#)
- [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Claims window now open for free school meals additional costs

- You can now claim for additional costs incurred from providing locally sourced vouchers to pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals between Monday 4 January and Friday 5 March, when schools were closed to most pupils. You can also claim for lunch parcels provided during this period and up until the start of the Easter holidays.
- Claims can only be made for support that was provided to eligible pupils over the specified period and to the values stated in the [guidance](#). ***Claims should not be made in relation to support provided through the Edenred national voucher scheme, as all those costs have already been met centrally by the Department for Education.*** All claims made will be cross-referenced with orders made using the national voucher scheme.
- The claims window for these costs is now open and will close at 23:59 on Tuesday 4 May. Schools are able to claim directly, or local authorities and academy trusts can claim on their schools' behalf.

Further information on claiming for additional costs can be found in the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) free school meals additional costs](#) guidance.

Bulk Registration service update for secondary schools and colleges

- The [register test kits for your organisation](#) service, more commonly known as 'Bulk Registration' has been updated.
- A new version of the [digital guidebook](#), detailing the changes made to the service and a [new spreadsheet](#) to use for the service are now available. Users of this service should note that the old template spreadsheet, used by schools before the Easter holidays, will no longer work in the service.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing terms and conditions for schools, colleges and other further education providers

- The [terms and conditions](#) for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for schools, colleges and other further education providers have been updated following expiry of the previous terms and conditions on Thursday 1 April 2021.
- The updates to the terms and conditions include extending the duration of the testing programme to Friday 23 July 2021 and minor changes to the standard operating procedures for students and the workforce to accommodate testing by independent training providers and adult community learning providers.
- We have also updated the section on data protection to state that data in test kit logs should be provided to the Department of Health and Social Care when requested and to confirm that providers should not retain data in their test kit logs for longer than 12 months.
- We will take your continued participation in the testing programme as your acceptance of the updated terms and conditions. These will replace any previous terms and conditions that you have agreed to in relation to the testing programme. If you have any queries or concerns in relation to these changes, please contact the Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687.