

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated		Changes made	Useful Links/Document
9:30am, May 2021	4	Updated the equality, diversity and inclusion statement to set out how our return to routine inspection in the summer term fulfils the requirements placed on us by the Equality Act 2010.	Ofsted's return to routine inspection activity - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
9:30am, May 2021	4	Added data for weeks beginning 5 and 12 April.	Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:30am, May 2021	4	Final outcome and public feedback published, along with guidance, conditions and requirements documents.	Consultation on autumn assessment opportunities for VTQ and other general qualifications - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:30am, May 2021	4	Published the consultation outcomes and analysis of responses.	Consultation on arrangements for an autumn 2021 exam series - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:31am, May 2021	4	Vocational and technical qualifications contingency regulatory framework, COVID-19 guidance, and conditions & requirements documents updated to reflect amended VCR8 text.	Vocational and technical qualifications contingency regulatory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:00am, May 2021	5	Securing full attendance: support for schools and local authorities' – updated advice for supporting attendance for children with a social worker and section on actions local authorities might want to take to support attendance.	School attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:00am, May 2021	5	Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' guidance updated to include information on the claims window for additional costs.	Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, May 2021	5	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 29 April 2021'.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:02am, May 2021	7	Updated 'Rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist settings' to reflect the introduction of nasal swab only tests at asymptomatic testing sites.	Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:32pm, May 2021	7	Updated the conditions of grant document for funding for testing.	Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools and colleges: grant funding - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
10:31am, 4 May 2021	Ofqual has published its decisions following a consultation on GCSE, AS and A level exams in the autumn.	Ofqual confirms autumn assessment arrangements - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:47pm, 4 May 2021	Round 4 of the Schools Infection Survey (SIS) shows a significant drop in the number of secondary school pupils and staff testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).	COVID-19 in schools: study shows drop in infections - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 5 May 2021	Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 29 April 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Ofsted Rolling Update

Publication date	Content	Useful links/documentation
9:30am, 7 May 2021	Updated the 'Area SEND' section in 'Current activity' to set out our inspection plans from June.	Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DfE Updates

Coronavirus (COVID-19) test kit delivery schedules for schools and colleges

Delivery schedules for the week commencing Monday 3 May are now available on the document sharing platforms. This schedule also includes which deliveries are planned for next week with further updates on timing provided by Monday 10 May.

Please check the published delivery schedule prior to contacting the DfE COVID-19 helpline in relation to expected timescales for receipt of deliveries and wait for 48 hours after a scheduled delivery date before calling.

The delivery schedule for primary schools and maintained nurseries is available on the [primary schools and nurseries document sharing platform](#).

The delivery schedule for secondary schools, further education colleges, independent training providers and adult community learning providers is available on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

National Tutoring Programme (NTP) – subsidised tutoring available

All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the NTP to support pupils (aged 5-16) 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. This includes specialist provision for supporting students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 26 of the 33 providers are able to support students with SEND, including 17 providers who are able to support students in special school settings.

The NTP recently held a series of information webinars for all state-maintained schools. If you were unable to attend, the [recording](#) and [information slides](#) of the most recent national webinar are now available to view online.

Submitting teacher assessed grades for this year's GCSEs, AS Levels and A Levels

On 27 April Ofqual confirmed how data and evidence of a student's grades will be submitted in this summer's awarding.

Schools and colleges (centres) will be able to submit their students' grades from Wednesday 26 May until Friday 18 June 2021. Once the grades are received, every centre will be asked to provide samples of student work, as described in Ofqual's recent blog, [quality assurance for GCSE, AS and A level: information for schools and colleges](#).

Centres should retain the work and records of marking or grading judgements as exam boards will request samples after 18 June. This will also be needed if a student wishes to appeal their result. Please see the [submission of teacher assessed grades, summer 2021: info for teachers guidance](#) for more information.

Elective Home Education (EHE) – guidance for schools, local authorities and parents

Over the last twelve months of the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools have seen an increase in notifications from parents or carers about EHE. This has resulted in [38%](#) more children being home educated across the country in 2020 compared to the previous year, which is in part due to parents or children having health concerns related to COVID-19. DfE has developed [operational COVID-19 guidance for schools, parents and carers](#) to help ensure safe education and mitigate against risks. We encourage dialogue between parents, carers and education providers should concerns remain.

Most home educated children will have a positive learning experience, but this is not the case for all, and EHE can mean some children are less visible to the services there to keep them safe and supported. An [education in the media blog](#) for parents, carers and [EHE guidance for local authorities](#) (LA) are available. The guidance sets out the roles and responsibilities of schools and LAs, and the powers available to engage with parents and carers considering EHE. All schools and LAs should be familiar with this guidance.

Where a parent or carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school to home educate, we recommend that LAs, schools, and other key professionals work together to coordinate a meeting with parents or carers where possible. Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made. This is to ensure the parents or carers have considered what is in the best interests of each individual child. This is particularly important where a child has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), is vulnerable, or has a social worker.

Where parents have removed children from their school since September, we encourage schools to check that their LA has been informed. This will assist LAs in making sure they fulfil their duties and ensure that information is shared with children's social care where necessary.

We do understand that some parents may change their mind about home educating their child, perhaps as the pandemic eases. If a parent wants to re-admit their child, then a school's normal [process for in-year school admissions](#) should apply. An application can be made at any school, at any time.

Educational visits from Monday 17 May

Schools and colleges will be aware that subject to Step 3 of the government's [Roadmap out of Lockdown](#) progressing as planned, residential educational visits can resume from 17 May. The [schools guidance](#), [further education guidance](#), and [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\) accommodation guidance](#) will be updated next week (if Step 3 progresses as planned) and will provide guidance as to what safe residential educational visits should look like at Step 3.

Summer Schools webinar and sign-up

The Summer Schools team is running an information session to tell you more about the 2021 summer schools programme and to answer any questions, on Wednesday 12 May at 4pm for one hour. Schools can [join the webinar here](#).

Further information is available in our [guidance on summer schools](#) – please contact the team at Learning.RECOVERY@education.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Changes to the instructions for use for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home test kits in schools and colleges

For home test kits sent between Monday 4 January and Friday 30 April, we have asked schools and colleges to hand out revised instructions to students and staff when they pick up their home test kits.

For deliveries received from Tuesday 4 May, please follow the revised guidance as detailed below. Packs of 7 test kits, delivered from this week, will include revised instructions inside the box and will no longer require extra instructions to be given out.

For packs of 3 test kits, you should continue to hand out the separate instructions for use (versions 1.3.2 or 1.3.3) along with these test kits. You should also continue to hand out separate instructions for use for any test kits received before Tuesday 4 May.

A summary of these changes is available in the How to Guide. We have also updated the Test Kit Log template to reflect this change. All documents can be found on the [primary schools](#) and [secondary schools](#) document sharing platform.

The Big Ask survey for school pupils

Last month the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever survey of children in England. It asks all children about their

priorities and concerns for the future, so that we can put children at the heart of the national recovery post-COVID-19.

Have your pupils all had their say about what matters to them? If not, then please consider supporting them in completing this survey and make their voice heard. Every single pupil's voice is important. The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 28 May.

[A range of teaching resources](#), including lesson plans and activity packs, has been produced to help teachers incorporate this into lessons.

Primary schools and nurseries – volunteers required for COVID-19 testing quality assurance exercise

As part of the NHS Test and Trace schools rapid asymptomatic testing programme, we conduct ongoing quality assurance. This is a standard requirement to assess the performance of lateral flow devices (LFDs) in school and nursery settings. We are looking for volunteers to participate in this. Schools and nurseries are asked to take part for a two-week period, and will complete the exercise once only.

Staff will complete a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test alongside their usual LFD test and report the results of both tests to NHS Test and Trace. We will provide participating schools and nurseries with a supply of PCR kits to distribute to staff. There will also be support and guidance to explain the process and requirements for participating schools and nurseries.

To get involved, please email QAinSchools@test-and-trace.nhs.uk. You will then be contacted by a member of the team.

Update on Orient Gene LFD tests for use at asymptomatic testing sites (ATS)

From Monday 10 May, NHS Test and Trace are introducing a new type of LFD test called Orient Gene. These are for use at ATS in schools and colleges. These tests involve double nasal swab samples only – a throat sample is not needed. The Orient Gene devices return a positive or negative result in under 30 minutes.

We will be updating our guidance on the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#) shortly with further detail on the change. This will include a one-page summary of the key differences between the (current use) Innova and the new Orient Gene LFD tests.

The reordering window is now open for deliveries during week commencing Monday 17 May. All deliveries for ATS test kits will be of Orient Gene test kits instead of Innova. To reorder ATS test kits please use the [asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 in maintained nurseries, schools and colleges delivery and supply form](#).