

## Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

### Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
12:40pm, 10 May 2021	Updated details about social care leavers and who can order devices. Added information about ordering devices and getting support which was previously published on other webpages.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-technology-during-coronavirus-covid-19">Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:40pm, 10 May 2021	Updated details about social care leavers and who can order devices. Added information about ordering devices and getting support which was previously published on other webpages.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-technology-during-coronavirus-covid-19">Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:18pm, 10 May 2021	Added the 2021 student guide.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/gcse-as-and-a-level-qualifications-in-2021">GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:18pm, 10 May 2021	Added the 2021 student guide.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/vocational-technical-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021">Vocational, technical and other general qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
6:22pm, 10 May 2021	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.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak">Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
6:48pm, 10 May 2021	Updated the guidance to reflect that from 17 May face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/face-coverings-in-education">Face coverings in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
7:19pm, 10 May 2021	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.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
7:19pm, 10 May 2021	Updated to provide additional guidance on residential visits, which can commence from Step 3. Updated the guidance on use of face	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">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)</a>

		coverings, indoor group sizes and parental attendance at out-of-school settings.	
7:29pm, 10 May 2021		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).	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings-coronavirus-covid-19">Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
7:57pm, 10 May 2021		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.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
9:30am, 11 May 2021		Monthly estimates of education output for remote learners during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic with breakdowns by school phases, regions and Ofsted ratings.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monthly-estimates-of-education-output-for-remote-learners-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic">Monthly estimates of education output for remote learners during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:00pm, 11 May 2021		Added 'Laptops and tablets progress data as of 11 May 2021'.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/laptops-tablets-and-connectivity-progress-data-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Laptops, tablets and connectivity progress data during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:00pm, 11 May 2021		Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 6 May 2021'.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
4:11pm, 11 May 2021		Updated ITT criteria in line with the coronavirus (COVID-19) amendment to the School Teacher Qualification Regulations that came into force in April 2021.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/initial-teacher-training-itt-criteria-and-supporting-advice">Initial teacher training (ITT): criteria and supporting advice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
4:11pm, 11 May 2021		Updated the early years initial teacher training criteria in line with the ITT criteria changes made in April 2021 as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) amendment to the School Teacher Qualification Regulations.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-years-itt-requirements-and-supporting-advice">Early years ITT requirements and supporting advice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
9:57am, 12 May 2021		Updated 'Public health guidance to support exams from January 2021' to reflect step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown. The guidance on face coverings has been updated and information specific to the spring term 2021 has been removed.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/responsibility-for-exams">Responsibility for exams - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
11:09am, 12 May 2021		Updated with guidance for supporting children's care homes in the management of visitor testing, safeguarding in out of school settings and youth clubs, and keeping	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for children's social care services - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

	residential settings safe from coronavirus (COVID-19).	
12:06pm, 12 May 2021	Updated to reflect the schools guidance on testing and face coverings for Step 3 of the roadmap from 17 May.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-2020-to-2021-academic-year">Transport to school and other places of education: 2020 to 2021 academic year - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
1:11pm, 12 May 2021	Guidance updated to provide information about autumn 2021 selection assessments. Updates are listed in the document.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-assessment-processes-for-selective-school-admissions">Coronavirus (COVID-19): assessment processes for selective school admissions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
1:52pm, 12 May 2021	Updated as from 17 May all apprentices in higher education can return to in-person teaching and learning.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/providing-apprenticeships-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic">Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:54pm, 12 May 2021	Updated guidance for parents in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, including information on face coverings, testing, travel abroad and educational visits.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19">What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
10:00am, 13 May 2021	This guidance has been updated with further information on testing and face covering measures.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings">Coronavirus (COVID-19) local restrictions in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:26pm, 13 May 2021	We have clarified the autumn exams will assess students in the same way as had been planned for exams in summer 2021. See point 4 in the summary on this page.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-on-arrangements-for-an-autumn-2021-exam-series">Consultation on arrangements for an autumn 2021 exam series - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:28pm, 13 May 2021	We have clarified that the autumn exams will assess students in the same way as had been planned for exams in summer 2021.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/student-guide-to-awarding-summer-2021">Student guide to awarding: summer 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
1:33pm, 14 May 2021	Changed the summary to make it clearer that the consultation applies to GCSE, AS and A level qualifications.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2022-non-exam-assessment-and-fieldwork-requirements-consultation">2022 non-exam assessment and fieldwork requirements consultation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2022-non-exam-assessment-and-fieldwork-requirements-consultation">2022 non-exam assessment and fieldwork requirements consultation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

### **New Publications:**

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
3:18pm, 10 May 2021	A guide for students on how GCSEs, A levels, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2021.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/student-guide-to-awarding-summer-2021">Student guide to awarding: summer 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
3:18pm, 10 May 2021	Students taking GCSEs, A levels and many other qualifications this year are being offered important support with a new guide from Ofqual.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guide-for-students-released-today-by-ofqual">Guide for students released today by Ofqual - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

12:00pm, 11 May 2021	How many laptops, tablets and routers we've delivered to help disadvantaged children and young people access remote education.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Laptops, tablets and connectivity data as of 11 May 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
12:00pm, 11 May 2021	Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 6 May 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
5:54pm, 13 May 2021	Every school in England with a Reception class to be offered expert training in early language and communication	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Every school with Reception class offered early language training - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
11:00am, 14 May 2021	Ofqual consultation on arrangements for non-exam assessment and fieldwork requirements for students entering GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications in 2022.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Arrangements for non-exam assessment for qualifications in 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
11:00am, 14 May 2021	Ofqual is consulting on arrangements for non-exam assessment (NEA) in certain subjects and fieldwork requirements for students entering qualifications in 2022.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">2022 non-exam assessment and fieldwork requirements consultation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

## DfE Updates

### Mental Health Awareness week

- As part of Mental Health Awareness week, the Government has announced more than £17 million to build on the mental health support already available in education settings, as wellbeing continues to be prioritised alongside academic recovery. Further information on the announcement can be found in the [press release](#).

### Change to Orient Gene lateral flow device tests for use at Asymptomatic Testing Sites for schools and colleges

- From Monday 10 May, NHS Test and Trace introduced a new type of lateral flow device (LFD) called Orient Gene for use at on-site Asymptomatic Testing Sites (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.
- Sites should only use one brand of device at any one time for the on-site ATS testing, to minimise risk of confusion and processing errors. You should plan to begin using the Orient Gene LFD test kits for on-site testing when your current supply of Innova LFD test kits are due to end.
- Updated guidance regarding the introduction of the new Orient Gene test kit has been uploaded to the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).
- In exceptional circumstances, especially for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), if they are unable to nasal swab, they should use an Innova test kit to throat swab only. Sites should retain any leftover Innova ATS test

kits for students, pupils or staff members who are unable to nasal swab. Please contact the helpdesk on 0800 046 8687 if you have pupils or students who require Innova test kits for use on-site (as they cannot have a nasal swab and cannot be tested at home) and you are running low on stock. Further information can be read in the [rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist settings guidance](#).

### **Free personal protective equipment for special schools and special post-16 institutions**

- All special schools in England are eligible to access the personal protective equipment (PPE) portal provided by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The PPE portal allows eligible providers to order free PPE on a weekly basis for their coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE requirements.
- Since January 2020, all special schools have received an email asking them to register with the PPE portal. Those who have not registered will shortly receive another email invitation from [ppeportal.queries@unipart.com](mailto:ppeportal.queries@unipart.com). This email invitation will be sent to the email address which your setting used to register with the DfE Get Information About Schools database. This is the only email address which is eligible to register. Please ensure that you have checked your junk folder.
- If you have not received the email invitation or would like to change your registered email address, please contact the Customer Service team on 0800 876 6802 who will be able to help support you in registering with the portal.
- All other settings should refer to the [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance](#) to understand how they can access PPE to meet their coronavirus (COVID-19) needs.

### **National Tutoring Programme (NTP) – places still available for this academic year**

- All state-maintained schools can still access subsidised tutoring through the NTP, to support pupils 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. Our [frequently asked questions](#) are available to read. To see NTP in action, please see our [latest school story](#).
- Schools can [search for approved NTP Tuition Partners](#) and enquire directly with providers. This includes providers with expertise in both primary and secondary phases as well as special schools and Alternative Provision settings.
- Assistant headteacher, Mr Rutter, explains [why he would recommend schools take up the tutoring offer](#).
- You can now watch a [recording of the national school information webinar](#) held on Wednesday 21 April. In this webinar, you will hear directly from Tuition Partner organisations and learn about the subsidy.

More detailed information is also available on the [NTP website](#).

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Roadmap – guidance for education settings**

The [Prime Minister announced](#) that the country will move to Step 3 of the roadmap on Monday 17 May.

The Prime Minister announced that travel within Britain with overnight stays will be permitted, which means that schools will be able to organise trips with overnight stays from Monday 17 May. Remaining university students will also be able to return to in-person teaching, where they can access twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

We have updated the following guidance to reflect these changes:

- [early years and childcare providers](#)
- [schools guidance](#)
- [special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [further education colleges and providers](#)
- [higher education providers](#)
- [protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings](#)

Please see the [guidance on the COVID-19 response – Spring 2021 \(Roadmap\)](#) for additional information.

### **Update to face coverings in education settings guidance**

- As part of the government's move to Step 3 of the roadmap, from Monday 17 May, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England. Our [guidance on face coverings](#) has been updated to reflect these changes.
- Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.

### **COVID-19 test kit delivery schedules for schools and colleges**

- An updated delivery schedule for next week will be published by Monday 17 May. Please check the published delivery schedule prior to contacting the helpline in relation to expected timescales for receipt of deliveries. Please wait for 48 hours after a scheduled delivery date before contacting the helpline.

- 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](#).

### **Summer Schools webinar and extended sign-up window**

- Some schools have asked if they can still sign up to the programme and we are therefore keeping sign-up open. The form will remain in place until Friday 28 May.
- Schools can access their [funding allocation](#) before [signing up for the programme](#) to indicate they intend to run a summer school. The process takes no more than a couple of minutes.

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

### **Reporting test kit delivery issues: independent training providers (ITPs) and adult community learning partnerships (ACLPs)**

- A short [online form for ITPs and ACLPs](#) who experience delivery issues is now available. This can be used if your delivery has not arrived on schedule, or where it has arrived but there are test kits missing or damaged.

Before filling the form in, please:

- check whether the delivery has been received by anyone else
- check the delivery schedule on the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#) for your expected delivery date
- allow 48 hours for any re-delivery attempts

### **COVID-19 recovery: live webinars on Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms for all education settings undergoing statutory inductions**

- From September, statutory induction for new teachers will change as part of the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms. Subject to parliamentary procedure, all early career teachers in England undergoing statutory induction will be entitled to 2 years of high-quality professional development support based on the ECF. If your school offers statutory induction, you will need to replace your current induction process.
- DfE will host two webinars to provide settings with the information you need to prepare for these changes. The webinars will run from 4pm to 5pm on Thursday 20 May and Thursday 17 June. You can sign-up for one of these dates on [Eventbrite](#). For more information on the ECF reforms, please see the [early career framework reforms: overview](#).

### **Ofqual's student guide to awarding: summer 2021**

- Ofqual have now published their new [student guide to awarding: summer 2021](#). This guide offers support for students taking GCSEs, A levels, vocational and technical qualifications this year. It is written for students and complements the materials that have already been published for teachers. It also contains important advice on where students and their families can go for more information and support, including support for those with mental health concerns.

### **Oak National Academy summer learning support offer**

- [Oak National Academy](#) is extending its support to schools, teachers and pupils across summer 2021.
- Oak's Summer Teacher Hub and Summer Classroom will provide resources and lessons for both face-to-face summer schools and summer home-learning.

Their summer learning support offer includes:

- core priority units and lessons identified to prepare pupils for the next academic year
- newly designed unit quizzes as a formative tool to help identify gaps in knowledge
- creative, active and mental health resources from a range of partner organisations, signposting pupils to vital wellbeing support
- a full package of detailed guidance for teachers, parents and pupils

In addition, all 10,000+ of Oak's existing free, high-quality editable and adaptable lessons remain available, each featuring teacher-led videos to aid independent study across 35 subjects from early years foundation stage (EYFS) to key stage 4.

### **Summer term attendance expectations for schools**

- School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils and the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance.
- We expect schools and local authorities to continue to communicate clear expectations around attendance to families, identify pupils at risk of disengagement and develop plans to re-engage them.
- As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday.

### **Guidance on year 11 and 13 provision for the 2021 summer term**

- Guidance on year 11 and 13 attendance and provision for the 2021 summer term can be found in [Annex B of the schools operational guidance](#). This guidance sets out the valuable activities that year 11 and 13 pupils should be engaged in.



- You should strongly encourage pupils to attend provision after the May half-term and make judgements about the appropriate activities for your pupils. This may not mean full-time provision and could include visits to education providers or remote provision.
- Where pupils do not attend, you need to record pupils in the register using the most appropriate code. Code S (study leave) should only be used to record leave for year 11 pupils during public examinations and, therefore, may not apply this year.

### **The importance of testing and reporting in schools and colleges**

- Testing continues to play a crucial role, in and out of classrooms, in our fight against COVID-19.
- Staff should continue to test themselves and report results whilst encouraging secondary school and college students to do likewise.
- Reporting test results can be done simply and quickly, from mobiles, online or by phone, and should be completed straightaway. Reporting not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case but also assists our understanding of community rates of infection.
- To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, we have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case. Please share this in your newsletters and communications with pupils and parents.

### **Update to the contingency framework**

- We have updated our guidance on how settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of COVID-19 (contingency framework). The [contingency framework](#) was updated on Thursday 13 May to include information on the use of face coverings and surge testing in response to variants of concern (VOC) outbreaks in local areas.
- The contingency framework is a set of guiding principles designed to help decision makers at local and national level when considering plans to apply, tighten or relax measures affecting education and childcare. The framework includes measures that will be helpful tools in managing local outbreaks and responding to VOCs. It outlines a description of the types of attendance restrictions that may be needed and refers to the government's central decision-making process. Any restrictions on education are always a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision. This framework is separate to the processes in place for managing outbreaks and operational challenges in individual nurseries, schools or colleges.

### **Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) – second wave of school recruitment**

- On Thursday 13 May, the Department for Education announced that every state school with a Reception class in England can now apply for training and resources through an early years catch-up programme funded by the government, to support thousands more pupils with vital communication skills.

- Delivered by the Nuffield Foundation and backed by an extra £8 million of investment, recruitment has launched for the second wave of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI), a programme proven to be effective in raising outcomes in Reception-age children's early language, communication and speech skills – particularly those who need the most support to overcome the disruption of the pandemic.

Further information on the announcement can be found in the [press release](#).