

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
9:30am, 17 May 2021	Added data for weeks beginning 19 and 26 April.	Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:57am, 17 May 2021	Updated to reflect changes in taking step 3 of the roadmap.	Making a childcare bubble with another household - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 18 May 2021	Added link to 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 13 May 2021'.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:00pm, 19 May 2021	Removed references to shielding and removed links to a service that has closed.	COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2:39pm, 20 May 2021	Added newly published "Guidance for centres: awarding of VTQs: summer 2021" document to Guides section.	Vocational, technical and other general qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2:59pm, 20 May 2021	We have converted the guidance to HTML to make it easier to read. We have not changed any of the guidance from the update on 10 May.	Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2:59pm, 20 May 2021	We have converted the guidance to HTML to make it easier to read. We have not changed any of the guidance from the update on 10 May.	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)
12:15am, 21 May 2021	Updated guidance for the 2021 application round.	Alternative provision: year 11 transition funding - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
12:00pm, 18 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 13 May 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2:30pm, 20 May 2021	Guidance for schools, colleges and training centres on how results will be awarded for vocational, technical and other general qualifications in summer 2021.	Guidance for centres: awarding of VTQs: summer 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
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Dfe Updates

COVID-19 variant – information for education settings

- On Friday 14 May [the Prime Minister announced](#) that we have seen further clusters of the new COVID-19 variant (B.1.617.2), especially in some areas of England and set out the measures needed to tackle this new Variant of Concern. The [Contingency Framework for Education and Childcare](#) sets out the principles to apply and ease measures necessary to contain the virus in local areas and we are working closely with local authorities in the areas affected by the new variant. There is [further guidance](#) available for anyone living in one of the areas affected by the new variant.

Given the increased risk of transmitting COVID-19 in areas where the new variant is spreading fastest, everyone is advised to take particular caution when meeting anyone outside your household or support bubble in these areas. This will keep yourself and others safe. In particular, wherever possible, you should try to:

- Meet outside rather than inside where possible
- Try to keep 2 metres apart from people that you don't live with (unless you have formed a [support bubble](#) with them), this includes friends and family you don't live with
- Get tested twice a week and isolate if you are positive
- [Get vaccinated](#) when you are offered it, and encourage others to do so as well

Ofqual open consultation for arrangements for non-exam assessment for qualifications in 2022

- Ofqual are [consulting on the arrangements for non-exam assessment \(NEA\)](#) and fieldwork activities in some GCSE, AS and A level subjects that will be undertaken by students taking exams in summer 2022.
- Ofqual are seeking views on their proposal to carry forward changes agreed for summer 2021 for some subjects, to take account of any public health restrictions relating to COVID-19 that might be in place during the next academic year.

This consultation covers:

- non-exam assessments in dance, design and technology, drama (and theatre), film studies, food preparation and nutrition, media studies, music, music technology, and physical education (PE)

- fieldwork activities in geography, geology and environmental science
- assessment of speaking skills in GCSE modern foreign languages (MFL)
- assessment of spoken language in GCSE English language

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on Friday 28 May.

COVID-19 test kit delivery schedules for schools and colleges

- A further updated delivery schedule will be published by Monday 24 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 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 document sharing platform](#).

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](#).

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The Department for Education COVID-19 helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Bank holiday opening hours:

Monday 31 May from 10am to 4pm

Please listen carefully to all of the available options before selecting the most appropriate option for your nursery, school, college or university.

Summer schools – sign-up open until Friday 28 May

- Over 80% of eligible mainstream schools have already signed up to the summer schools programme. Some schools have asked if they can still sign-up therefore we are keeping sign-up open and 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 if you have any questions.

Important information for schools and colleges about laptops and routers provided through the Get help with technology programme

- Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers were provided by the Department for Education as part of the Get help with technology programme to support remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We will continue to provide data for 4G routers until 31 July 2021.
- Some schools and colleges ordered 'restricted' Windows laptops and tablets that came with security software installed. Licenses for these will expire on 30 September 2021. ***You need to [reset these laptops, tablets and routers](#) so they can continue to be used.***
- If you have Huawei routers, you will need to [reset them before 16 July 2021](#). If you do not do this, you will be unable to use another SIM card when the data runs out.
- It is a school or college's responsibility to safeguard the young people in their care. The [resetting guidance](#) includes all the information you need to restore factory settings and

apply your own security software to laptops and tablets. Please ensure that you share this information with whoever is responsible for IT at your school or college.

- If you ordered 'standard' Windows devices that were provided without security settings, no action is required.

If you have any questions or encounter issues during the reset process, please [contact us](#).

Reminder – get your pupils to fill in The Big Ask

- The Children's Commissioner's survey of childhood, [The Big Ask](#), is the largest ever survey of children in England. Already more than 400,000 children and young people have had their say about what matters to them for their future. Does that include your pupils? Every single pupil's voice is important.
- Have your pupils had their say? If not, please consider supporting them in completing this survey and make their voice heard. Thousands of schools have already helped their pupils take part in the survey by incorporating it into lessons or form time. [A range of teaching resources](#), including lesson plans and activity packs, has been produced to help.

The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 28 May.

Rapid testing quality assurance in secondary schools and colleges

- As part of the NHS Test and Trace schools rapid asymptomatic testing programme, ongoing quality assurance (QA) in secondary schools and colleges is being conducted. This is a standard requirement to assess the performance of lateral flow devices (LFDs) while asymptomatic testing in secondary school and college settings is carried out.
- The Schools Quality Assurance Team from NHS Test and Trace will invite a selection of schools and colleges to participate in this programme in the coming weeks. They will provide all participating schools and colleges with a supply of PCR kits to distribute to pupils, students, and staff over a two-week period, which should be used alongside their usual LFDs. There will also be support and guidance to explain the process and requirements.

We encourage you to get involved in this national exercise.

If you would like to pre-emptively volunteer before being contacted for this exercise, please email QAinSchools@test-and-trace.nhs.uk.

The Department for Education needs your school's views

- A few weeks ago, your school may have been invited to take part in the School Recovery Strategies (SRS) survey. There is still time to be part of this important research to help inform government policy on education recovery. The survey will close on Monday 14 June.
- We would like to hear from all types of schools and settings (including primary, secondary, middle, all through, special schools and alternative provision), to give the government a fuller picture of schools' views and experiences across the country.

- The research is being carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the DfE. To check if your school has been selected to take part, or if you would like further information, please contact SRSstudy@ipsos.com.

If your school has been invited to take part, we would like one school leader in your school, who has an overview of the current and planned recovery strategies across year groups, to complete the short online survey.

Test kit ordering weekly deadline change

The weekly deadline for placing orders for further lateral flow device (LFD) test kits is changing from 5pm on Wednesdays to 5pm on Tuesdays.

Orders placed before 5pm on Tuesdays will arrive the following week. Any orders placed after this time will be processed and delivered in the subsequent week. For guidance on how to place an order for further test kits, please refer to the document sharing platform for [primary schools and nurseries](#) or [secondary schools and colleges](#). Please ensure that your stock covers a minimum of two weeks of testing at the time of placing an order.

There is no change to the supply of at home test kits for secondary schools and colleges which will continue to be supplied on a regular basis without ordering at present.

Update to alternative provision: year 11 transition funding guidance

We have updated our [alternative provision: year 11 transition funding guidance](#) to include information for the 2021 application round.