

# Covid-19 update from the Education and Skills Team

Professional Advocates for Children in Education, Governor Support, NQTs, Early Years, the Virtual School for Looked after Children and In Year Fair Access

## Useful local information

Leaders and other readers will find another attached letter to parents and carers from Dr Dewis.

We have also had clarification from colleagues in Derby City that there will be another issue of codes for FSM vouchers for eligible children. Once again, the funding for this is coming from the Winter Covid grant held by Derby City. Thank you once again for your help in getting the funding to the families in need.

We have started work on plans for the next Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which will happen for four days over the Easter break. The government has confirmed funding for the next three years for provision at Easter, Summer and Christmas so we are now thinking about longer term plans for this workstream. As soon as we have arrangement confirmed, we will begin marketing.

Cases continue to be high in schools, but there are glimmers of hope that they may have started to fall in some parts of the city. Let's hope so – we know you are shattered again and extremely fed up with it.

Shoulders are available for those who need them.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

10 Feb 2022

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Attachment:

- Letter for parents/carers from Dr Dewis

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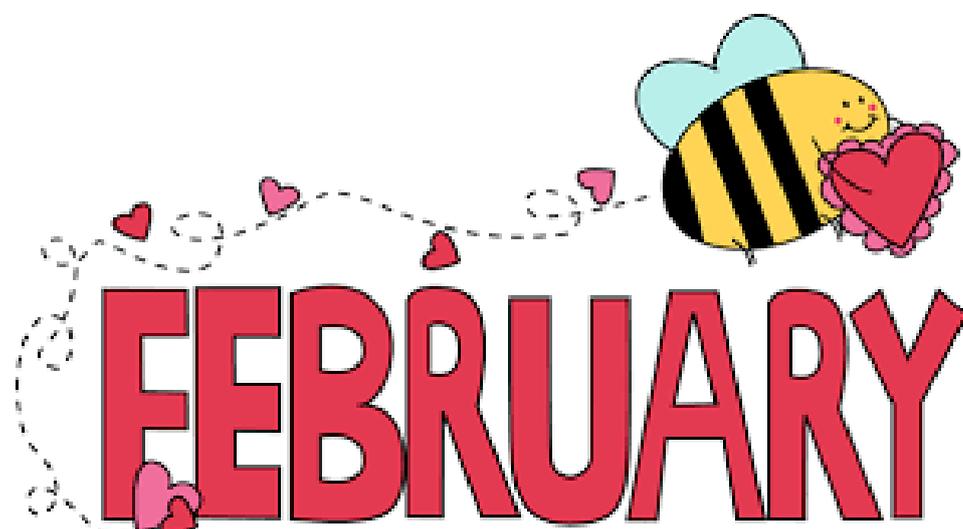
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## International travel for 12 to 15 year olds

There is now an option of a digital NHS Covid pass for this age group, in case any Derby schools are considering international travel for the next school trip (!!!) Further information on [how to get an NHS COVID Pass](#) is available on the NHS website.

## CO2 Monitors

The DfE believes that schools have now received one CO2 monitor per two teaching rooms. Today is the deadline for letting them know if you haven't on the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687. They will want the following information:

- number of pupils
- number of teaching spaces
- number of sites
- your URN
- full name of your setting

There are some new support resources in connection with ventilation:

- a [webinar](#) from Cath Noakes and Henry Burridge, Senior Lecturer in Fluid Mechanics
- a poster providing [top tips on improving ventilation](#)
- a poster providing [top tips on using CO2 monitors](#)
- a [newsletter template](#) which education and childcare settings can customise to inform parents and carers about their approach to using CO2 monitors and how they are helping them to manage ventilation.
- [how to use a CO2 monitor](#)
- [how to use an air cleaning unit](#)
- [section 5](#) of the Health and Safety Executive's guidance
- the DfE [Education Hub Blog](#) for tips on managing ventilation in colder weather
- a short [video on ventilation and CO2 monitors in schools](#) by Cath Noakes, Professor of Environmental Engineering for Buildings

## Derby City Council Funding Free School Meals over the February Half Term

Derby City Council is delighted to continue to offer entitled children and families financial support for Free School Meals during the February Half Term 2022.

Each code will be for a £15 voucher that can be used at any of the following seven supermarkets, Aldi, Asda, Morrisons, M&S, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose.

We will email you the codes, and pre-printed letters with instructions on how to redeem codes for these to be distributed to children entitled to FSM

We are anticipating that vouchers will start to be sent around 10 February 2022





Derby City Council

Team      Public Health  
Contact    Robyn Dewis  
Our ref     RD/NO

Date        9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite reports that COVID infections are falling, we are still seeing a high number of COVID cases in the City, over 2000 each week. Cases in children are at their highest since the start of the pandemic. Many schools and early years providers are working extremely hard to keep settings open while ensuring children and staff are safe. Despite this we have a number of settings that have needed to take additional actions to respond to outbreaks.

I am writing to ask for your help and support to reduce Covid-19 spread and keep schools and settings open. I hope that, by working together, we can keep children in face to face education for the coming months.

We continue to advise schools and childcare providers to:

- Increase ventilation inside and to be outside as much as possible.
- Ensure a continued focus on thorough and frequent cleaning, along with increased handwashing and sanitising.
- Ask parents to continue to wear face coverings at drop-off and pick-up or if they visit inside.
- Ask staff to continue to wear face coverings where possible and appropriate, including in communal areas in some schools with outbreaks.
- Encourage staff and secondary school children to use the home testing/ lateral flow kits twice a week and report results. These tests are to use regularly when you do not have any symptoms. Our advice is that these tests can also be used by Primary aged children if parents are happy to do this.
- Identify any contacts of positive cases and provide advice that is based on the setting's rates of infection.
- Remind everyone that those with symptoms need to stay at home and take a PCR test. Children should not return to the setting before the result comes back and staff may ask to see the result.
- Remind everyone who is positive for COVID that they need to isolate at home.
- In some outbreak situations head teachers may ask household contacts to stay at home until they have had a negative PCR result.

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**People Services, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS**  
derby.gov.uk

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I am asking parents to:

- Continue to use the home testing/ lateral flow kits twice a week and report the results. Parents can use them with younger children if they feel able to.
- Wear a face covering if you need to gather with others when you drop-off or collect your child, unless exempt. Some settings continue to require this.
- If your child has COVID symptoms (a new cough, a temperature or loss of taste/smell) please keep them at home and arrange a PCR test. If your school currently has an outbreak then other symptoms such as sore throat or cold symptoms may also indicate COVID infection.
- If your child is identified as a contact, please follow the advice provided by your school or childcare provider. This might include a bookable PCR test, daily LFTs for children over 5 or younger if parents agree. In some circumstances your child may be asked to move to home learning.
- If there is a current outbreak in your child's school, or your child is identified as a contact, please consider the activities they undertake out of the school setting. Please consider reducing their contact with vulnerable people, including those who are older or in poor health, for the period of the outbreak.

Thank you for your support in keeping your setting open and everyone safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Dewis', written in a cursive style.

Dr Robyn Dewis  
Director of Public Health

PCR test- taken at a test site or as a postal kit and sent off to the lab

LFT- the one you do at home and get your results immediately