

# 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

## The Importance of Testing

In addition to the information from the government, our colleagues in CCT have written two letters which are attached to this bulletin. The first is to headteachers – expressing well deserved thanks and also guidance for the remainder of the year. Derby leaders know by now that our partnership work with CCT has been incredibly useful -we know each other by name and, more important, we know you can rely on them in a crisis.

So, thank you CCT colleagues.

The second letter is for you to share with your parents and carers. Only in English at the moment (but we are working on it – *please let Jayne know the languages you need this letter in*), there are some timely reminders about safety and testing. Please feel free to share to underline our message.

Some of our schools are having a very difficult time at the moment – we know that this could be a different set of schools next week because the new variant seems to be very contagious. Please try not to get confused if CCT give slightly different advice to School A than to School B. They are balancing outbreaks (and therefore higher risk of positive cases) with 'normal' populations. It does all make sense when the underlying probabilities are explained.

Summer is close, but we have to remain vigilant. Thank you so much for what you are doing – we know it is dreadful.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

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Attachments: letters from CCT – 1 for heads and 1 for parents/carers

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## Covid-19 testing information from the government

For the remainder of the summer term, leaders are asked by the DfE to continue encouraging students and staff to test at home twice a week. We echo this in Derby and we are also providing some additional PCR testing capacity in parts of the city where cases are unusually high.

Over the summer, regular testing will pause in most schools but summer schools and other out of term-time settings are asked to continue. Testing will continue to be available with kits collected from a local pharmacy or ordered [online](#). For schools where stock levels are low, the online re-ordering platform is available.

**The guidance for children in year 6 and below remains the same. The DfE will not be advising them to test. This includes year 6 pupils attending transition days or summer schools over the summer break.**

When schools return in the Autumn term, it is possible that testing on return will be proposed. This will be confirmed when the Step 4 announcements are made. New supplies of test kits, PPE and guidance will be supplied so that leaders can be ready with on-site Asymptomatic Test Sites from the start of next term. The practical arrangements for doing this could involve starting (no earlier than) 3 days before term starts or staggering the return over the first week.

As a reminder:

“Anyone who tests positive using an LFD test will be asked to take a confirmatory follow-up PCR test. It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive LFD result self-isolates immediately for 10 days, as well as the other members of their household. You must only leave home for your follow-up test. You should arrange your confirmatory PCR immediately. For the fastest result, we suggest you [book a PCR test at a test site](#). You can also book a home test [online](#) or call 119 to book a test.

A PCR test will confirm if you have been affected by coronavirus or not, and reduce unnecessary self-isolation by you and your household. If you then receive a negative result from the PCR, and the PCR test was taken within 2 days of the LFD, then you and your contacts will be informed you can cease self-isolating.

Individuals who test negative from their LFD will not need to isolate or take a confirmatory test.”

## Summer Schools and Covid Safety



Although this guidance is aimed predominantly at secondary schools who are intending to run a summer school, primary leaders may have some interest if their Year 6 pupils are going to be involved. This guidance contains links to useful resources. This latest update makes it clear that schools should follow the protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme>

