

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

Just one week and a bit to go

Our admiration for you continues – we know that many Derby schools are arranging happy and/or celebratory end of year events, within your safety controls, to mark the end of what has been a horrible year for most people. Despite your exhaustion, the children of Derby are still being placed in the centre of your thinking. Thank you.

Guidance is changing after July 19th and we have mixed feelings about it. There are a lot of Covid cases being reported in Derby and some schools continue or have started to have a hard time. Face masks have been re-introduced in many schools as leaders try to protect children and staff. Despite how awful it feels, Derby continues to fare better than many near neighbours so we must all be doing something right.

In that light, we have thought long and hard about the shift to NHS Test and Trace for contact tracing in schools next week. We have spoken to a few headteachers who have expressed their view that they will know more about who sits next to whom than the Test and Trace person at the end of the phone. We have asked our friends in CCT.

There is only one week and a bit to go for most Derby schools. We ask that you continue to alert our local CCT colleagues and support them with your close contact tracing until we break up for summer. You have been doing really well and we don't want to lose it now for the sake of a few days.

September may be another matter – a lot can happen in six weeks, as we know only too well. We won't be writing bulletins over the summer (hurray/boo!) but we will start up again before the beginning of term (for most schools) so we can let you know how the land lies.

Take care, stay safe

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

Governor Tea Time Topic

Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 5.45pm to 6.45pm, to be held on Teams

Agenda

- Public Health Update: Covid19 - Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health
- The Virtual School and new responsibilities - Graeme Ferguson, Headteacher of the Virtual School for Looked After Children

To book a place email: jayne.hadfield@derby.gov.uk there is no charge for this meeting.

15 Jul 2021

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The September return – register codes and self-isolation

There hasn't been Parliamentary approval yet but it is likely that the use of register code X for Covid-related absence will continue. The code should not be used in relation to Covid anxiety and only if attendance would be against public health advice. Pupils with symptoms should get a PCR test and self-isolate while they wait – this would be Code X.

From August 16th, pupils identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should get a PCR test but do not need to self-isolate while waiting. They must self-isolate if the PCR comes back positive. Pupils who are a confirmed case with a positive test result should be marked Code I (illness).

The September return – testing in secondaries

Secondary schools have now been asked to set up an on-site asymptomatic test site for when the pupils return after the summer holidays. The government claim that this is based on public health advice and will help to prevent transmission after the summer when a lot of mixing may have taken place. Students participate in testing much more reliably when the tests take place on site than when they are at home. However, after the two initial tests in school, we are asked to encourage students (and staff) to test twice per week at home. There is guidance on the document sharing platform and there will be support for workforce costs which is explained in the workforce planning tool. This will be reviewed at the end of September.

The delivery schedule for the ATS on-site test kit deliveries, and delivery of proportionate PPE, for the week commencing Monday 12 July is now available on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

These decisions are based on evidence contained in the documents with links below:

- [Evidence summary: COVID-19 – children, young people and education settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021: roadmap reviews](#)
- [SPI-M-O: Summary of further modelling of easing restrictions – roadmap Step 4, 9 June 2021](#)

Face Masks – the latest

Although the national 'Step 4' will go ahead on Monday, the Prime Minister also said 'we expect and recommend people wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with those you don't normally meet such as on public transport'. So there has been some nifty footwork on the part of the DfE who have updated the raft of guidance for different types of setting to include this amendment. Operational guidance for settings now recommends that face coverings are worn on dedicated transport to school or college when prevalence is high. This will be kept under review.

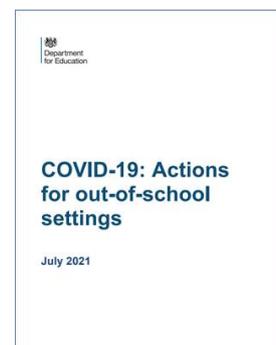
School leaders can take operational decisions about their own settings, but in doing so you should consider all steps and measures available and their impact on provision for students, using national guidance, your own risk assessments, and advice from the director of public health. Initial support for decision making should be sought from the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687 or by referring to local arrangements. (We are happy to advise locally.)

A reminder of this one



Although it is dated July 7th, the main change in the guidance above is about residential visits. However, given Summer Schools and Holiday and Activity Programmes are almost here, we thought a reminder would be useful. And then from Step 4, this is the version you need:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



New guidance from July 19th

Guidance

19 July guidance on protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19

Updated 12 July 2021

This replaces the current information in [guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#). It covers a number of areas such as vaccination, socialising and work. Schools have their own section which is summarised below.

Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and students should have returned to their school including early years provision, wraparound childcare and applicable out-of-school settings. Parents are encouraged to speak to school leaders if they are concerned about their child's attendance so that they can discuss measures put in place to keep their child safe. The use of regular LFTs is cited as a key lever to manage the spread of the virus. The guidance provides reminders of how schools and households can access these tests. Other measures listed are handwashing, use of face coverings in specific situations, enhancing cleaning, ventilation and managing suspected and confirmed cases.

A page of ideas for safe family fun over the summer



Reading, Creativity, Sport, Nature, Heritage, Community – this webpage has links to ideas that leaders may want to pass on in end of term newsletters.

[Rediscover Summer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Be vigilant – rogue visitors

We have been informed that over the border in Derbyshire they allegedly have had a rogue visitor. We aren't aware that it is happening here in Derby City but just in case. The script below was sent from Derbyshire County Council to schools and we would urge schools to do the same.

Dear headteacher, multi-academy chief executive, early years setting leader and manager and further education college chief executive

We hope you are keeping safe and well and we are contacting you regarding an alleged report of some members of the general public approaching a school and purporting to represent the government. The report suggests that they wanted to speak with the headteacher and to distribute COVID19 anti-vaccination material. The individuals left the school after the school threatened to call the police.

If any individual approaches your school or setting and reports they are from a government or health agency, then please use your usual checks to verify their identity. No council or government agency will be legitimately visiting schools or early years settings distributing COVID19 anti-vaccination material. If necessary, please report this to your local police.