

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

Cases are rising

We don't need to tell you – but the number of cases of positive C-19 tests for teenagers in particular has risen a lot over the last week. Some secondary schools have reintroduced masks – and we have been able to look at individual case rate charts for schools which show the powerful impact this can have on starting to bring the number of cases down. So our big message to school leaders today is that if you are wondering about bringing back masks in communal areas and even if classrooms where there are lots of cases – do so. If you are thinking about moving all PE outside – do so. If you are considering making your open evenings and parents' evenings remote – do so. Please encourage your young people to wear face masks on public transport, even if they look around and see members of the public without. We know that children and young people learn best in face to face education but we risk losing this for large numbers. This is not a Derby phenomenon, by the way – we saw this as one of many media articles yesterday:

<https://inews.co.uk/news/education/schools-children-staff-off-sick-covid-19-measures-1231413>

In other news, thank you for the offers of support at the forthcoming remote session for mental health leaders. We now have a full agenda which we hope will be useful with some information sharing and some opportunities for mutual support with colleagues.

Take care of yourselves and each other

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

7 Oct 2021

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The Household Support Fund

Guidance

Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Updated 5 October 2021

A £500 million Household Support Fund is being run by local authorities in England. Read more information on [support for vulnerable families over winter](#). It allows local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals with daily needs such as food, clothing and utilities. We will provide further information as it becomes

Encouraging regular testing – now available as powerpoint



Covid-19 Asymptomatic Testing in Schools and Further Education Providers
How to encourage pupils and students to test regularly

[RP160 How to encourage pupils and students to test regularly .pdf - Google Drive](#)

To facilitate twice weekly testing at home for staff and students, when your test kit stocks start to run low you will need to order more test kits as these will not be automatically sent to you. You can order more test kits using the [online re-ordering portal](#).

Webinar providing factual information to schools on 12-15 year old COVID-19 vaccination

On Thursday 7 October (i.e. today) at 15:00-16:00 the NHS England Vaccine Deployment Programme will be hosting a clinician-led webinar for education leaders on the vaccination programme. This webinar will include information on:

- the clinical decision to vaccinate this age group
- the vaccination programme and the role of schools in it
- resources and support available for schools

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions about the programme. You will be able to access the webinar on Thursday via [this link](#).

