

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

Another quiet one

We now know that over the half term week, there was a reduction in the amount of testing going on and a consequent reduction in positive results. Please don't be fooled – now schools are back the cases have already started to rise. We repeat and reiterate the advice from Dr Dewis. Don't wait until it becomes a problem in your schools – act as if it is here now. Derby leaders have managed cases really well over the entire time this has been going on – keep going at it! It is working and is helping to make Derby a safer place for all of us.

We know it is horrendous and isn't at all what you anticipated when you became a headteacher, school leader, member of support staff, teacher or governor but we need you now more than ever.

Stay safe, take care and thank you.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

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New devices for disadvantaged children and young people

The 'Get Help with Technology' service is intending to provide more laptops for disadvantaged pupils. These will be with factory settings and will not include DfE safeguarding software so you will be responsible for content filters and device management systems. There are also 4G wireless routers available but they won't have SIM cards – schools will need to arrange this themselves. You can expect an email over the next few weeks inviting you to order. They will use the contact details on record on the 'Get Help with technology' service so it might be an idea to check if these are up to date.

There are various grants on offer to help schools with the costs of technical support and connectivity support. Further [information about these grants, including the eligibility criteria](#), is available on GOV.UK.

Information for schools on asymptomatic COVID-19 testing

To help pupils understand the importance of testing and to encourage greater uptake, the DfE recommend that schools think about the best ways of engaging your students in regular testing. There is a [toolkit](#) to support you in encouraging pupils and students to test regularly. The toolkit provides strategies, best practice case studies and online resources to help increase participation levels. This includes sending GOV.UK automatic text reminders to test, working with student groups to encourage testing and incentivising testing through reward schemes. (Students who find it especially challenging to test using lateral flow devices (LFDs) should be treated sensitively and signposted to [additional support](#) available to help students test.)

Extra questions on your favourite form

Guidance

How to complete the educational setting status form

This data will help the government monitor the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on settings, focus support more effectively and keep children safe.

These forms have been updated with the addition of questions on tutor funding.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>