

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

A bit of a round up

Although all is relatively quiet as far as national Covid-19 updates go (mainly about money), we have some local advice attached to this bulletin from Dr Dewis, mainly aimed at leaders in nursery settings.

We have also had a look at the latest version of the educational settings form which the DfE are asking leaders to complete every day. It is becoming increasingly substantial in the range of questions asked so we thought we would attach that too in the spirit of helpfulness.

Finally, we know you know we know – Covid numbers remain high in Derby, so be careful as you go. Some schools continue to struggle with staffing. Thank you for continuing to let us know – it is incredibly helpful to have this information when parents aren't consistently reporting to the national system.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

PS: For those of us who have developed an interest in mindfulness and well-being over the course of the last two years, Future Learn have a few free courses available at the moment including this one:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/mindfulness-wellbeing-performance>

The latest information about claims for exceptional mass-testing costs

This updated information refers to mass testing between 4th and 14th January 2022.

Guidance
Coronavirus (COVID-19) mass testing funding for schools and colleges: exceptional costs guidance (updated January 2022)

Updated 4 February 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-mass-testing-funding-for-schools-and-colleges>

Money!

For secondary schools, following the announcement of a one-off £1000 to support the hosting of vaccinations for 12-15 year old pupils, information about amounts, eligibility and payments can be found in the [conditions of funding](#) document. There are also details on how to work with and support the school age immunisation service (SAIS) in the ["how to" guide](#) for schools.

For all schools, the [internet access and device claim form](#) is now live with deadline Sunday 27th February. Academies need to claim at individual school level.

8 Feb 2022

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Attachments:

- Letter from Dr Dewis to Nursery Managers
- Letter from Dr Dewis to Nursery Parents
- Questions on the educational setting status form for schools Feb 22

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Derby City Council

Team Public Health
Contact Robyn Dewis
Our ref RD/NO

Date 3rd February 2021

Dear Nursery Head teacher/Manager

Since Christmas we have seen extremely high rates of Covid-19 infection across the City, impacting significantly on all of our education settings. In the past week, case rates appear to have stabilised in all age-bands except children, where they have increased to their highest ever rate. A large number of settings are currently managing outbreaks in both staff and children; we know you are under an enormous amount of pressure to keep settings open and keep staff and children safe.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and hard work to respond to the challenges and minimise the spread of covid-19 infection in your settings. There are a few more challenging weeks ahead, and it is important that we continue to take all measures available to us now to protect our children, their families and staff.

The role of the Director of Public Health is a statutory one, and as part of this I am able to provide you with local advice regarding additional and proportional measures that I believe we should continue to take to minimise the risk of Covid-19 over the coming weeks. The Public Health CCT team, part of Derby City Council, will continue to support you to implement this advice, based on your setting's needs. You can access support by emailing cct@derby.gov.uk.

My current advice is to:

- Continue to implement control measures - ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents, keep occupied spaces well ventilated. Follow health and safety advice and protocols.
- Continue to notify cases in the appropriate way, to CCT/Public Health, Ofsted and RIDDOR.
- Consider where it is appropriate for staff to wear face coverings and request that visitors entering your setting wear face coverings unless exempt.
- Reconsider how groups of children or staff are mixing in the setting, including indoor and outdoor activities.

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

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- Continue to promote lateral flow testing twice weekly for staff, parents and older siblings who have no symptoms. Encourage staff and parents to report LFT results online.
- Advise parents of symptomatic children that they need to isolate at home and take a PCR test. National guidance recommends PCR testing for those with the three key symptoms of COVID, but please note that during outbreaks the chance that contacts with other symptoms (e.g., sore throat or cold symptoms) have COVID is increased.
- Advise that symptomatic children should not return to the setting until a negative result is received or should follow isolation advice if positive.
- Staff can identify any close contacts within the setting and advise parents of a number of options: they can book a PCR and return when negative, and/or promote daily LFTs for 7 days (if parents are willing) or can ask children to isolate where the setting's risk assessment supports this.
- Children who are household contacts (children with a parent or sibling etc. who has tested positive) are recommended to take a bookable PCR test and remain at home until a negative result is received. This is because the risk of household transmission is so much greater than for other contacts. Staff can also promote daily LFTs for 7 days (if parents are willing) or can ask children to isolate where the setting's risk assessment supports this.

We understand how challenging testing can be for this age group and would encourage discussion with parents on the most appropriate option for their child. Any child who has received a positive PCR test in the preceding 90 days would be exempt from seeking a further PCR test.

I have attached a letter explaining these actions to parents and requesting their support. We will continue to monitor the situation in schools and settings weekly.

Yours sincerely



Dr Robyn Dewis
Director of Public Health



Derby City Council

Team Public Health
Contact Robyn Dewis
Our ref RD/NO

Date 3rd February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite overall reports that COVID infections are falling, we are still seeing a high number of cases in the City, over 2000 each week, and we expect rates to remain high over the next few weeks. Cases in children are at their highest since the start of the pandemic. Many early years settings (nurseries, pre-schools and childminders) are working extremely hard to keep settings open while ensuring children and staff are safe.

I am writing to ask for your help and support to reduce Covid-19 spread and keep settings open. I have written to Nursery Headteachers and Managers to provide them with advice and hope that, by working together, we can keep children in provision over the next few challenging months.

I have advised all early years 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 wear face coverings at drop-off and pick-up or if they visit inside, unless exempt.
- Ask staff to wear face coverings where possible and appropriate.
- Encourage staff 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.
- 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.
- Ask household contacts to stay at home until they have had a negative PCR result.

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derby.gov.uk

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I am asking that parents and carers also:

- Use the home testing/ lateral flow kits twice a week and report the results. Parents can use them with younger children if they wish to.
- Wear a face covering if you need to gather with others when you drop-off or collect your child. Some settings require this.
- Please keep your child at home if they have COVID symptoms (a new cough, a temperature or loss of taste/smell) and arrange a PCR test. If your setting currently has an outbreak then other symptoms such as sore throat or cold symptoms may also indicate COVID infection.
- Please follow the advice provided by your childcare provider if your child is identified as a contact. This might include a bookable PCR test, daily LFTs if you are able, or isolation.
- Please keep your child/ children at home if someone in your household has COVID until they have had a PCR test and received a result.

Thank you for supporting your childcare setting to keep open and keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely

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

Dr Robyn Dewis
Director of Public Health



Questions on the educational setting status form for schools

These are the questions which will appear on the collection form for school settings. They have been reproduced here so you can see the information you'll need to provide.

Question: What is the current status of your educational setting?

Answers guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- Open
- Closed due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related reasons
Your setting is not providing on site education because it is closed due to coronavirus (COVID-19) reasons. You may be offering remote education whilst your site is closed.
- Closed due to non-coronavirus (COVID-19) related reasons
Your setting is not providing on site education because it is closed due to non-coronavirus (COVID-19) reasons. You may be offering remote education whilst your site is closed.
- Teacher training or inset day
Your setting is not offering on site education due to a teacher training day or inset day.

Question: Other than closures, has your setting been advised to implement additional measures to deal with coronavirus (COVID-19) today?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- No - no additional measures currently implemented
- Yes - following advice received from director of public health (DPH) including local health protection team (LHPT)
- Yes -following advice from Department for Education (DfE) or Public Health England (PHE) helpline
- Yes – following advice from local authority or other source of advice
- Yes – internal decision taken without receiving advice from any of the above

If Yes:

**Question: What additional measures has your setting implemented today?
Select all that apply.**

Answer guide: Please choose from the following options.

- Strengthened communications to encourage compliance with testing and reporting
- Introduced face coverings for a limited period of time – either in communal areas only or all areas within your setting
- Reintroduced on-site testing for limited period of time
- Introduced daily home testing for a group of pupils or students via lateral flow device (LFD)

Do not include pupils or students who are undergoing Daily Contact Testing (DCT) after contact with a case of coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Attendance restrictions for some pupils or students
- Other – free text box (1000 characters)

If 'Attendance restrictions' is selected:

Question: Are you still providing on-site provision for all vulnerable pupils or students where it remains in line with public health advice to do so?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- Yes
- No

Question: How many pupils or students are on roll at your setting?

Answer guide: Provide the total number of pupils or students on roll
Nursery pupils should not be included within the on roll figures.

Question: Of those pupils or students on roll, how many have an education, health and care (EHC) plan?

Answer guide: Provide the total number of pupils or students on roll with an education, health and care (EHC) plan irrespective of whether or not those pupils or students have a social worker.

Question: Of those pupils or students on roll, how many have a social worker?

Answer guide: Provide the total number of pupils or students on roll who are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child. Also, provide the total number of these pupils or students irrespective of whether or not those pupils or students have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.

Question: Of those pupils or students on roll, how many are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals?

Answer guide: Provide the total number of pupils or students on roll at your setting who are eligible to receive benefit related Free School Meals.

Question: How many pupils or students are on site at your setting today?

Answer guide: Provide the number of pupils or students you have attending the setting today.

Question: Of those pupils or students, how many have an education, health and care (EHC) plan?

Answer guide: Provide the total number of pupils or students attending your setting today with an education, health and care (EHC) plan irrespective of whether or not those pupils or students have a social worker.

Question: Of those pupils or students, how many have a social worker?

Answer guide: Include all pupils or students who are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child. Also, provide the total number of these pupils or students irrespective of whether or not those pupils or students have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.

Question: Of those pupils or students attending your setting today, how many are eligible for free school meals?

Answer guide: Do not include pupils or students eligible for universal infant free school meals

[The following three questions on the School-Led Tutoring grant will appear on 9 February, 9 March, 30 March 2022]

Question: Is your school currently using the School-Led Tutoring grant to provide tuition?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- Yes

- No, but intend to use it during the academic year
- No and do not intend to use it.
- No, my school has no pupils eligible for pupil premium and therefore does not
- receive this grant.

If Yes:

Question: Since the beginning of the Autumn term, how many pupils have received tuition through the School-Led Tutoring grant in total?

Answer guide: Enter the number of hours of tuition that have been delivered to pupils in Years 1-11 through the School-Led Tutoring grant. This figure should include both mainstream and SEN provision. This figure should be a cumulative total to date since the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Do not include any subsidised tuition provided via the Tuition Partners or Academic Mentors pillars of the National Tutoring programme.

Information about funding allocations to schools is available here: [School-led tutoring: conditions of grant](#)

Question: Since the beginning of the Autumn term, how many pupil hours of tuition have been delivered through the School-Led Tutoring grant in total?

Answer guide: Enter the number of hours of tuition that have been delivered to pupils in Years 1-11 through the School-Led Tutoring grant. This figure should include both mainstream and SEN provision.

Please enter this as the number of pupil hours, that is if tutoring has been delivered in a small group, count each hour for each pupil. For example, if a tutor has delivered 1 hour of tutoring to a group of 3 pupils, please count this as 3 hours.

This figure should be a cumulative total to date since the beginning of the Autumn Term. Where possible please enter a precise figure, however, if necessary, the figure can be an estimate, to the nearest 10 hours.

Do not include any subsidised tuition provided via the Tuition Partners or Academic Mentors pillars of the National Tutoring Programme.

Question: How many pupils or students are unable to attend on site due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related reasons?

Answer guide: Enter the relevant figure for each reason.

Do not include pupils or students who are not on site because they have not yet been tested or are not expected to be on site as a result of the phased return process.

Do not count a pupil or student more than once. Individuals should be recorded in one category only.

- Suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
Include all those with a positive result during asymptomatic testing
- Required to remain at home or isolate in line with government guidance
This includes pupils or students required to isolate after returning from abroad or pupils or students required to isolate because they are over the age of 18 years and 6 months who are not fully vaccinated.
- Absent due to attendance restrictions put in place to manage an outbreak within your setting or exceptional circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19)
Exceptional circumstances related to coronavirus includes exceptional staff shortages or exceptional unavailability of transport affecting access to education, such that pupils or students have been asked to move to remote education at home.
- Absent due to isolation for other reasons

Question: Is your setting able to provide minimum hours of remote learning to the pupils or students not on site today?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

Include pupils or students not on site due to the phased return process, those not on site because they are self isolating, and those not on site due to attendance restrictions put in place to manage an outbreak within the setting or exceptional circumstances related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Refer to guidance for remote education expectations published on GOV.UK. [Click here for guidance](#)

- Yes
- No

If No:

Give the reasons for your setting being unable to provide the minimum hours of remote learning to the pupils or students who are not on site today.

Question: Do you have arrangements in place to provide free school meals for pupils or students who are not on site today?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

Include pupils or students not on site due to the phased return process and those not on site because they are self-isolating

This does not include provision for universal infant free school meals

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Question: What free school meals arrangements do you have in place for pupils or students who are self-isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related reasons?

Answer guide: Please choose from the following options.

- Food parcels
- Locally arranged vouchers
- Other – please state

Question: Does your setting offer any on-site breakfast clubs, after-school clubs or other childcare provision, either run by your own staff or an external provider?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- No
- Yes, breakfast clubs only
- Yes, after-school clubs only
- Yes, breakfast and after-school clubs
- Yes, other childcare provision

If Yes:

Question: Has your setting had to cancel any breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, or other childcare provision today due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related reasons?

Answer guide: Please choose from one of the following options.

- No, we have not had to cancel any clubs or other childcare provision
- Yes, we have had to cancel up to half of the clubs or other childcare provision
- Yes, we have had to cancel more than half of the clubs or other childcare provision

If Yes:

Question: Why did you cancel your breakfast or after-school clubs, or other childcare provision?

Answer guide: Please choose from the following options.

- School-employed staff absence
- Private provider staff absence
- Local director of public health (DPH) advised cancellation
- Other

If Other:

Provide details of the other reason(s) why you cancelled your breakfast or after-school clubs, or other childcare provision.

Question: How many teachers, including school leaders, are on roll at your setting?

Answer guide: Enter the relevant figure.
Do not include any supply or agency staff in this figure.

Question: How many teaching assistants and other staff are on roll at your setting?

Answer guide: Enter the relevant figure.

Question: How many of your teachers, including school leaders are unavailable to teach on site for following reasons?

Answer guide: Enter the relevant figure for each reason.

Do not count a teacher or school leader more than once. Individuals should be recorded in one category only.

- Suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
Include all those with a positive result during asymptomatic testing
- Required to remain at home or isolate by NHS Test and Trace or in line with government guidance due to close contact with a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) within your setting
- Required to remain at home or isolate by NHS Test and Trace or in line with government guidance due to close contact with a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) outside your setting
- Other reasons for absence
Provide the number of teachers and school leaders who are absent and have not been included in the totals above.

Question: How many of your teaching assistants and other staff are unable to attend

the setting today for following reasons?

Answer guide: Enter the relevant figure for each reason.

Do not count a teaching assistant or other staff more than once. Individuals should be recorded in one category only.

- Suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
Include all those with a positive result during asymptomatic testing
- Required to remain at home or isolate by NHS Test and Trace or in line with government guidance due to close contact with a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) within your setting
- Required to remain at home or isolate by NHS Test and Trace or in line with government guidance due to close contact with a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) outside your setting
- Other reasons for absence
Provide the number of teachers and school leaders who are absent and have not been included in the totals above.

Question (optional): Is there any additional information about your setting's status you wish to provide?

Answer guide: Provide details - there is a 1,000 character limit.