

# 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

## Advice - as much as we can

Let's focus on something uplifting and/or therapeutic – we have been approached by a partner organisation to see if schools would like to get involved in an archive project to create a snapshot of life during the pandemic. There are more details over the page and more to follow but in the meantime we have given you a name and a link. We are fairly sure you will want your children to have the opportunity to contribute. And your grown-ups are also welcome to contribute too!

In less uplifting news, we now know that almost all legal mitigations to protect the vulnerable from C-19 have ended. The library of school advice has been updated. We have also had a look at a couple of the documents written for the wider population and provided links and quick summaries. It isn't complete anarchy – there remain some sensible pieces of advice that have not really changed throughout the last two years. The main difference appears to be that we are asked and advised to follow rather than told to follow.

The last half term has seen several occasions when we sent out a nil-bulletin because of the lack of new information. Now that mitigations are lifted, this is even more likely. As a result, we have decided to reduce to one Covid bulletin per week, to come to you on Wednesdays starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please don't think we have abandoned you – the meetings with Health colleagues continue and we are still here to signpost you when you need advice. We will continue to provide information relevant to Derby when we have it.

Take care. Stay safe. Chin up. You are amazing.

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

28 Feb 2022

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## Contacts:

### Pauline Anderson

Service Director Learning, Inclusion & Skills

Tel: 01332 640358

[pauline.anderson@derby.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.anderson@derby.gov.uk)

### Jo Ward

Head of Service Education & Skills

Tel: 07812 301644

[jo.ward2@derby.gov.uk](mailto:jo.ward2@derby.gov.uk)

### Jayne Hadfield

Governor Support Manager

Tel: 01332 640364

[jayne.hadfield@derby.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.hadfield@derby.gov.uk)

[schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk](http://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk)

## Derby's Community Archive Project

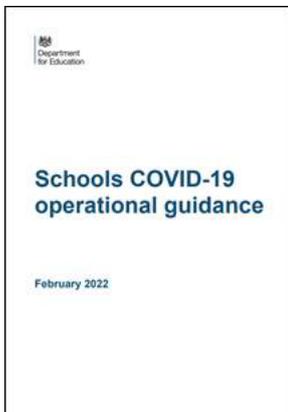
In partnership with Derby City Council, Community Action are running an archive project, in order to create a snapshot of what life has been like for people in the city of Derby, during the Covid pandemic. We are interested in capturing people's memories and experiences and adding them to our archive, where they will form part of the historical record.

It would be very useful to gain an insight for future researchers to see how school life has been affected, especially from a child's point of view. If you have any material, such as poems, written experiences, artwork or photos that you would like to contribute to the project please let us know. Equally, if any teachers would like to share their experiences that would be much appreciated too!

A local artist, Maggie Roper-Attenborrow will be running art workshops as another strand to the project. She is hoping to create a display called The Derby Wall, made out of individually painted canvas tiles. Further details will be available once she has the workshops set up.

For more information, please contact Joanne Gent, the project archivist at: [joanne.gent@communityactionderby.org.uk](mailto:joanne.gent@communityactionderby.org.uk) or Tel: 01332 227723

## Updated schools guidance



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

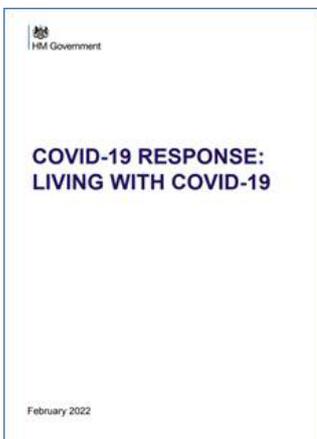
The DfE have also updated the following documents:

- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [SEND and specialist settings: additional COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [Further education COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [COVID-19: Actions for out-of-school settings](#)

Following the prime minister's announcement last week about the end of almost all Coronavirus mitigations, the collection of guidance documents has been updated en masse. Changes include:

- Removing the advice on bubbles and mixing
- Update to Tracing close contacts and isolation section to clarify that from 24 February, the guidance in this document will be replaced by UKHSA guidance
- Update to Asymptomatic testing section to reflect that from 21 February, twice weekly testing in mainstream schools will no longer be advised.

## 'Living with Covid'



“The Government's aim throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been to protect the lives and livelihoods of citizens across the United Kingdom (UK). This document sets out how the Government has and will continue to protect and support citizens by: enabling society and the economy to open up more quickly than many comparable countries; using vaccines; and supporting the National Health Service (NHS) and social care sector. It also sets out how England will move into a new phase of managing COVID-19.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

## UKSHA advice and links

News story

### Public reminded to stay safe as COVID-19 England restrictions lift

The government has ended legal restrictions in England and is instead asking the public to practice specific safe and responsible behaviours.

From [UK Health Security Agency](#)  
Published 24 February 2022

From last Thursday, the government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test and also ended routine contact tracing. Close contacts who are fully vaccinated will no longer have to test daily for 7 days, while unvaccinated close contacts will not be required to self-isolate.

However, staying at home and avoiding contact with others is still the most effective way to avoid passing on COVID-19 if you are infected. The government has set out full, updated [advice on what to do if you test positive for COVID-19](#).

With the virus still circulating in our communities, continuing to follow good public health behaviours is still vitally important. [UKHSA's Safe Behaviours Blog](#) and [updated government guidance](#) provides essential advice on how to reduce your risk of catching and spreading the virus.

## Slight differences for special schools



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

Changes to the guidance since 21 February 2022 publication include:

- An update to the section on tracing close contacts and isolation to reflect new public health information from 24 February – “Public health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended”
- An update to the section on when someone develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test to reflect new public health guidance from 24 February – “Pupils, staff and other adults should follow guidance on people with COVID-19 and their contacts if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Pupils in residential settings should usually self-isolate in their residential setting. Only in exceptional circumstances should a pupil self-isolate away from school. Pupils and staff should return to school as soon they can, in line with guidance for people with COVID-19 and their contacts.”
- Asymptomatic testing in specialist settings and SEND units in mainstream settings - Staff and pupils in specialist SEND settings, AP and SEND units in mainstream schools or equivalent in FE colleges, (for example those completing courses which are specifically for students with disabilities and/or learning disabilities such as Supported Learning courses and Foundation/SEND courses), are currently advised to continue regular twice weekly testing. The government recognizes that specialist settings will have additional considerations to take into account when delivering asymptomatic testing. If necessary, settings should retain some testing capacity on site so they can offer testing to pupils and students who are unable to test themselves at home. Testing is voluntary and no child or young person will be tested unless informed consent has been given by the appropriate person. In the event of an outbreak, a setting may also be advised by their local health team or Director of Public Health (DPH) to increase testing for staff and students of secondary age and above for a period of time.

# People with Covid – what we do now

Guidance

## COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts

Published 24 February 2022

- If you have the main three symptoms (continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste and smell) then order a PCR test. Stay at home and avoid contact while you wait for the result.
- There is [additional guidance](#) for people who have been informed by the NHS that they are at highest risk of becoming severely unwell and who might be eligible for new COVID-19 treatments.
- If you have C-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- Advice:
  - Do not attend work/school – if you cannot work from home, talk to your employer about options.
  - Ask friends/family etc. to get food and essentials for you.
  - Don't invite social visitors into your home.
  - Postpone non-essential services and repairs that need a home visit.
  - Cancel routine medical and dental appointments.
  - Let people know if you have been in close contact with them 2 days before symptoms started up to 10 days afterwards.

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days

