

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

One week to go

Despite all of the new guidance suggesting that Covid has all but gone away, we all know that cases in Derby are probably higher than they have ever been. Staff illness has been a particular difficulty in some of our schools – yes, more than one – with some consideration of remote learning when no replacements can be found. Thank you for continuing to keep us informed – although there is less that we can do now many of the legal requirements have ended, we are still liaising with our colleagues in Health. I know you are appreciating their advice when you need it. There are no plans for that to end.

For those of you who wish to read government advice on 'Living with Covid', there are links below:

Press release - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>

Written ministerial statement - <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-29/hcws740>

This may be our last bulletin before schools break up. The Holiday Activity and Food Programme will be live again over Easter – please promote this with those of your families where children are eligible for free school meals.

We wish you a happy and peaceful Easter break – as ever, you deserve every second of it.

Take care

Pauline, Jo and the E&S team

Message from Dr Dewis

Dr Dewis would like to know if any Heads and Leaders have any remaining questions, if you are uncertain of anything and if you would like anything in writing for parents?

If you can let Jayne know any requests will be forwarded.

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Covid and the current arrangements

Last week, the government set out the [next steps for living with Covid-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

The universal testing offer has now ended but free Covid-19 tests will continue to be available for specific groups. Updated guidance advises:

- Adults with the symptoms of Covid-19 should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- Adults with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April, onwards:

- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND and alternative provision settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits.
- Residential SEND settings may be advised by their local health protection team to re-introduce some time-limited asymptomatic testing. This would be an exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students (secondary age or above) in the event of a possible outbreak. These settings were scheduled to receive an automatic delivery of contingency supply test kits during the week commencing Monday 28 March
- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish new guidance. Most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings was withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April. The operational guidance on the [testing in education settings document sharing platform](#) was also removed.

Links to guidance now

Guidance specific to education and childcare that settings should now refer to includes:

- [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) health protection in education and childcare settings](#)
- [DfE emergency planning and response](#)
- [DfE good estate management for schools](#)

New and updated UKHSA guidance for the general population, which will also be relevant to education and childcare settings, includes:

- [guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19](#)
- [living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)
- [ventilation of indoor spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections](#)
- [COVID-19 guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk](#)

You can access a YouTube [webinar](#) giving an overview from DfE and UKHSA officials on the [changes announced on Tuesday 29 March](#), that came into effect from Friday 1 April, and what this means in practice for education, childcare and children's social care settings.

Remote education

Schools no longer have a legal duty to provide remote education. The guidance below is therefore non-statutory:

Guidance

Providing remote education: guidance for schools

Published 30 March 2022

This guidance continues to suggest that although face to face is preferable, there may be occasions when leaders could consider providing remote education. This might include:

- occasions when school leaders decide that it is not possible for their setting to open safely, or that opening would contradict guidance from local or central government
- occasions when individual pupils, for a limited duration, are unable to physically attend their school but are able to continue learning, for example pupils with an infectious illness.

This second bulletin is interesting in the Derby context, given the proposals shared recently with primary and secondary heads about a graduated response to alternative provision, and how hospital school might work for children with short term hospital stays.

The guidance suggests remote education in proportion to the length of absence and equivalent to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. It could include recorded or live teaching time as well as time for independent tasks. The guidance goes on to define 'good practice':

- 3 hours a day on average across the cohort for key stage 1, with less for younger children
- 4 hours a day for key stage 2
- 5 hours a day for key stages 3 and 4

Schools 'may wish to' continue to provide information about this on websites. The link below provides the guidance in full.

[Providing remote education: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-remote-education-guidance-for-schools)

