

## COVID-19 – Frequently asked questions for Early Years – Issue 4 (June 10 2020)

Following the government announcement on May 10<sup>th</sup> that Early Years (EY) providers and schools will **open wider from week commencing 1 June 2020**, we are all working hard to respond to government guidance and implement the necessary steps to enable children to be welcomed back. **On 28 May, the government confirmed that all five government tests have been met and therefore based on all the evidence, from 1 June, early years settings can welcome back all children.**

All government guidance can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

All of the government guidance should be used by schools/EY providers to make informed decisions, risk assess and plan to welcome back more children. We highly recommend that schools/EY providers familiarise themselves and keep up to date with the guidance as it is issued.

The key message within all the guidance is, now the Government have confirmed that the five tests have been met, nurseries and other Early Years settings, including childminders can start to welcome back more children. The government understand that it may not be possible for all settings to open more widely or re-open at this time. In addition it may be necessary to introduce a temporary cap on numbers, to ensure that children are kept in small groups, and to avoid mixing of children between groups. If this is the case, settings should **prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers in the first instance**, then start to welcome back 3 and 4 year olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to Reception in September, followed by younger age groups.

### Government Guidance

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for schools and other educational settings](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)
- [Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers](#)
- [Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)
- [Early years foundation stage statutory framework \(EYFS\)](#)

Additional information/guidance that has been issued by Derbyshire County Council can be found [here on Derbyshire SchoolsNet](#)

Follow us on Twitter for up to date links and information - @DerbyshireEYFS

We understand how difficult it can be reading all the updated guidance and responding accordingly. In response to the high volume of queries and questions we are currently responding to, we have issued some further frequently asked questions you might find useful based on the updated guidance issued to date (June 10 2020)

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<b>Wider opening of Early Years provision including childminders from June 2020</b>	
<p>Can children attend more than one setting? Can I provide a place for a child, if they also attend another setting? What is the guidance on school pick-ups?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>The guidance states – <b>children should attend just one setting wherever possible.</b></i></p> <p><b>Childminders,</b> <i>consider how best to manage necessary journeys, e.g. pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, with groups of children.</i></p>	<p>The Government guidance states that scientific advice indicates that a phased return that limits the number of children in education settings and how much they mix with each other will help to control the rate of transmission. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</a></p> <p>Children should attend just one setting wherever possible and parents should be encouraged to minimise as far as possible the number of education and childcare settings their child attends. Childminding settings should consider how they can work with parents to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, e.g. pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures</a></p> <p>EY providers/schools should consider how you can support parents and carers to understand the risks.</p>
<p>I am an out of school club can I open? Which children are eligible to go to my Out of School Club on a school site?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>The government guidance states – <b>Ofsted registered before and after school clubs that operate on school premises can operate. All other out of school settings are not able to reopen.</b></i></p>	<p>Government guidance states - Providers registered with Ofsted or with a Childminder Agency which have before and after school clubs on school premises and can ensure they follow the protective measures guidance, are able to operate. This is only the case for registered providers which operate on school premises. All other out of school settings are not able to reopen. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures</a></p> <p>School-based wraparound providers, such as breakfast and after school clubs, can operate for children in eligible year groups (those in reception, and years 1 and 6) or those within priority groups (such as children of critical workers and vulnerable children) if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• operating on the same premises as the school those children are attending</li> <li>• only caring for children of that school and no others</li> </ul> <p>If wraparound providers are unable to implement the same protective measures as the school, they should remain closed for the time being. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers</a></p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We operate out of a community building, we have been informed the building will not be reopening, what shall we do?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>If you are unable to reopen in accordance with the government guidance. Please inform the local authority as early as possible as this could have implications for the sufficiency of places.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure you inform parents and direct them to the Families Information Service for further support on available Early Years Provision.</i></p> <p><i>Please note Early Years Funding will <b>follow the child as per the Provider agreement.</b></i></p>	<p>The guidance states - From 1 June, community centres or places of worship will be allowed to open for providers on the early years register which usually use those premises. Providers should ensure they are acting in line with the <a href="#">protective measures</a> and <a href="#">safe working guidance</a> as well as the <a href="#">planning guide for early years and childcare settings</a>. They should also ensure they are managing risks related to other users of the premises.</p> <p>For early years settings, the dedicated schools grant (DSG) should continue to be paid by local authorities for provision of free entitlements. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020</a></p> <p>Derbyshire County Council emailed all schools/EY providers on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, to outline all Early Years Funding arrangements for 2, 3 and 4yr olds – <a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx</a></p>
Supporting vulnerable children in your school/setting	
<p>Now that I have more children back will safeguarding arrangements change, do I need to update my policy and procedures?</p> <p>What should I do if I have concerns about the welfare of a child?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>The safeguarding and welfare section of the EYFS framework still apply, including requirements relating to child protection arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>You must continue to have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DLS) to take lead responsibility for safeguarding.</i></p> <p><i>Under no circumstances should any person without a valid DBS check be left alone with children</i></p> <p><i>The safeguarding responsibilities of schools/EY providers remain.</i></p>	<p>The government guidance states all providers are advised to update their child protection and safeguarding policy in light of COVID-19, or develop an addendum to their existing policy summarising any key COVID-19 related changes. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers</a></p> <p>Schools/EY providers must continue to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well during this period and have regard to the government's statutory guidance on <a href="#">working together to safeguard children</a>. The safeguarding and welfare sections of the <a href="#">EYFS</a> still apply. All staff and volunteers should be made aware of the new policy and be kept up to date as it is revised.</p> <p>Settings must continue to have a designated safeguarding lead (DSL). It is acceptable for the DSL not to be based on-site such as based at another setting, as long as they are still available to provide support, advice and guidance to staff. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures</a></p> <p>The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, through its education sub-groups, has developed templates for schools/EY providers to use in developing an addendum/annex to their existing child protection policy:</p> <p><b>For schools:</b> <a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/safeguarding-covid-19.aspx">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/safeguarding-covid-19.aspx</a></p> <p><b>For EY providers:</b> <a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx</a></p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>I have a child with an EHCP (Education, Health Care Plan) attending our setting. I have been sent and asked to complete a 'Risk mitigation' form for him. He's not attending, do I still have to do this?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>Yes, all children with EHCP's MUST have a risk mitigation form completed whether they are attending nursery or not. This is a government requirement.</i></p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes</a></p> <p>Please contact the child's SEND officer or Education key worker if you do not have a form.</p>
<p>I have a child attending my setting with an EHCP but his parents still do not want him to return. Does he have to?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>The government continue to encourage children with an EHCP to attend nursery, however it still remains the parent's choice.</i></p>	<p>The government continues to encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend educational settings, unless they have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#safeguarding-and-welfare">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#safeguarding-and-welfare</a></p> <p>If the child does not attend this term and is eligible for school in September please ensure the appropriate transition meetings and arrangements are in place for the child's transfer to reception, including the transfer of the child's MY SEND Learning Programme.</p> <p>Early Years SEND Transition and funding information: <a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx</a></p>
<p>A child in receipt of Early Years Inclusion Fund is not coming back to nursery this term but will transition to reception in September- what do I need to do?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>Please ensure that a transition meeting is still held (virtually) between setting staff, school, professionals and parents. The My SEND Learning Programme should be passed to the school.</i></p>	<p>Arrangements for applications for transition Early Years Inclusion Fund have been circulated and forms are available on Derbyshire SchoolsNet</p> <p><a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx</a></p>
<p>I have a child in receipt of Early Years Inclusion Fund, who has now returned to my setting. How can I claim the funding?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>Please refer to document circulated by email in march 2020</i></p>	<p>Early Years SEND funding information: <a href="https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/administration/communication-to-ey-providers-re-sen-funding-march-2020.pdf">https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/administration/communication-to-ey-providers-re-sen-funding-march-2020.pdf</a></p>

## FAQ

## Government guidance and additional information

## Implementing protective measures to keep children and adults safe?

I am concerned about the health and well-being of my staff and children attending, how can I obtain PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)?

I am unable to obtain PPE, where can I get this from?

My supplier says I am not a keyworker? Do I need PPE for my staff when I reopen in June?

**Answer:** *The government guidance states scientific advice indicates that PPE is not recommended for education staff. Unless routinely used for intimate care needs or if a child becomes ill with coronavirus symptoms.*

*Education and childcare settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE.*

The Government guidance states that *'Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended'*.

Schools/EY providers **do not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings**. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. *The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.*

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- **children, whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE** due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a **child, becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home**. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Staff should follow their normal practice when changing nappies and caring for babies more generally, this includes continuing to use the PPE that they would normally wear in these situations, e.g. aprons and gloves.

Education, childcare settings and providers include; nurseries, day nurseries, preschools, early years settings and childminders.

If education or childcare settings cannot obtain the PPE they need they should approach their local authority (LA). Local authorities should support them to access local PPE markets and available stock locally, including through coordinating the redistribution of available supplies between settings according to priority needs.

For Early Years Providers including childminders only: <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/administration/personal-protective-equipment-supplier-list-for-private-voluntary-and-independent-early-years-providers-only.pdf>

For schools: <http://www.services.derbyshire.gov.uk/Page/17538>



FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We are an Early Years provider are we eligible for a Coronavirus test?</p> <p>Can all children now get a test for coronavirus?</p> <p>Can we get the anti-body test?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> <i>The government have confirmed from 28 May, all children and members of their households will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) – including children under 5.</i></p>	<p><b>The government have confirmed from 28 May, all children and members of their households will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) – including children under 5.</b></p> <p>This means that when settings open more widely, children will be able to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.</p> <p>For further information, please read <a href="#">guidance on NHS test and trace: how it works</a>.</p> <p>The Government have announced that the NHS and Care home staff will be prioritised in the beginning of the antibody testing programme: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests</a></p>
<b>Further information</b>	
<p>If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact</p> <p>Sarah Bryan: Early Years Quality Manager - <a href="mailto:Sarah.bryan@derbyshire.gov.uk">Sarah.bryan@derbyshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Amanda Gordon: Early Years Sufficiency Manager - <a href="mailto:Amanda.gordon@derbyshire.gov.uk">Amanda.gordon@derbyshire.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>DfE coronavirus helpline</b></p> <p>Telephone 0800 046 8687</p> <p>Email <a href="mailto:DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk">DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk</a></p> <p>If you have a query about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments, and children's social care, in England you can contact the helpline.</p> <p>Lines are open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends.</p> <p>If you work in a school/EY Provider, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.</p>	