

COVID -19 – Frequently asked questions for Early Years – Issue 5 (21 July 2020)

Following the government announcement on June 23rd, further guidance has now been published. This outlines the necessary steps and protective measures providers should implement to enable further re-opening of out of school and holiday provision, along with government plans to welcome all children back to early years provision and schools, as we journey into the summer and towards the autumn term.

The key message within all the guidance is, due to the fact that the prevalence of the virus has fallen, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and the scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults, it is the Government ambition that we **welcome back all children** to schools, early years and childcare providers, including childminders.

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 EY providers, out of school/holiday clubs and schools to make informed decisions, risk assess and plan to welcome back all children. We highly recommend that schools, early years and childcare providers familiarise themselves and keep up to date with the guidance as it is issued.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-coronavirus-covid-19>

<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/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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

Further information and support can be found on the website – [Derbyshire Early Years COVID-19 Updates](#)

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, so 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 (14 July 2020)

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
Welcoming more children back to Early Years provision including childminders from July 2020	
<p>Can children now attend more than one setting?</p> <p>What about staff, can staff work at more than one setting?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The government guidance states; parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently. This should also be the same for staff.</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently. This should also be the same for staff.</p> <p>Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out of school setting during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak As these settings reopen, it is crucial that they are minimising the risk of transmission of the virus due to increased mixing between different groups of children. For this reason, parents/carers should consider sending their child to the same setting consistently.</p> <p>What parents and carers needs to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term In order to minimise risks, parents should consider sending their child to the same setting consistently and limit the number of different providers they access.</p>
<p>I am an EY provider, how do I group my children from 20th July?</p> <p>Do my children still need to be in bubbles?</p> <p>Answer: <i>From 20 July, early years settings will no longer be required to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings. Settings should still consider how they can minimise mixing within settings.</i></p> <p><i>Settings should still consider how they can minimise mixing within settings.</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak From 20 July, early years settings will no longer be required to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings. Settings should still consider how they can minimise mixing within settings, for example where they use different rooms for different age groups, keeping those groups apart as much as possible. All other protective measures must remain in place.</p> <p>Removing the groups approach is based on the fact that the overall risk to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low. It also recognises that early years settings are typically much smaller than schools.</p> <p>NB. It is recommended that providers keep a record of how they group children/staff to enable swift action and identification of children/staff who may need to self-isolate in the event of a confirmed case COVID-19.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>Some parents are asking if they can delay entry into Reception for their child as they have missed so much time in nursery, can they?</p> <p>I am concerned about transition should parents be encouraged to keep children in nursery/pre-school and delay entry to Reception this September?</p> <p>I am a school should I delay starting dates for children coming into Reception?</p> <p>Answer: <i>It is the government's plan that all children, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.</i></p> <p><i>The Department of Education are clear that COVID-19 should not be a reason why children start later in the autumn term.</i></p>	<p>Derbyshire County Council - Starting primary school</p> <p>By law, parents/carers must arrange for a child to start school full-time at the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday – unless arrangements are made to educate your child other than at school. Early Years funding is available for 15 hours a week (or 30 hours if eligible), up to and including the term in which a child has his/her fifth birthday.</p> <p>All children in Derbyshire are eligible for a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday. On the offer of a place, parents/carers have the right to defer admission until later in the same academic year. The place cannot be deferred beyond the point at which the child reaches compulsory school age, and not beyond the beginning of the summer term of the academic year for which the place was offered.</p> <p>If a parent/carer wishes to delay admission within the same academic year this must be agreed with the school. The parent should make an application as normal in the first instance. Arrangements to defer within the academic year should be agreed with the Headteacher of the school the child will be attending.</p> <p>Parents/carers considering this option should in the first instance discuss it with the child's pre-school provider, prospective future Headteacher and any other professionals involved as soon as possible.</p> <p>For further information on admission please direct parents/carers to the Derbyshire County Council website - Derbyshire's parent guide to primary school admissions</p> <p>The Department of Education has released an updated statement with regard to admission for summer born children 2020 – click here</p> <p>All children should be in school full-time from the first day of the autumn term. If a child is taking a place in Reception in the autumn term they are no longer eligible for Early Years Entitlement Funding.</p>
<p>Can we take children on outings?</p> <p>We are keen to take our children out on outings?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Yes, this should be restricted to small groups and should be done in line with wider government guidelines</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>Settings should maximise use of private outdoor space. Childminders and early years providers may take small groups of children to outdoor public spaces, for example parks, provided that a risk assessment demonstrates that they can stay 2 metres away from other people at all times. This should be restricted to small groups and should be done in line with wider government guidelines. Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do after 4 July.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We operate in a community building, they have said we will not be allowed to operate on the premises what can I do?</p> <p>We operate out of a school building, can we still open our holiday club?</p> <p>We operate from a church hall, can we open?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Since 1 June, community centres, village halls and places of worship have been able to open for providers on the <u>early years register which usually use those premises.</u></i></p> <p><i>It is also important to note that some premises may only be able to open for certain limited purposes. You should check the latest <u>government guidelines</u> on which businesses and venues can open and for which purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Providers should work with all the relevant parties to identify, agree on and distribute responsibility for protective measures to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).</i></p>	<p>For early years providers – Since 1 June, community centres, village halls and places of worship have been able to open for providers on the early years register which usually use those premises. Providers should ensure they are acting in line with the safe working guidance and the planning guide for early years and childcare settings. They should also ensure they are managing risks related to other users of the premises.</p> <p>Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>For out of school and holiday provision – Providers of out-of-school and holiday activities operate from a range of premises including schools and other regulated educational institutions, by arrangement with the proprietors of those institutions, and other community premises such as village halls, by arrangement with the owners or managers of those premises. We want to ensure, with this change, that all providers are able to open in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their own premises • education premises, such as schools or colleges (where providers would be using them outside of school hours, or when closed over school holiday periods) • community-facing premises including village halls, community centres and places of worship. <p>If you operate your OOSS in a shared space such as a community centre, you should discuss infection protection and control measures with the owner of the space. For instance, you should discuss with the owner what measures are in place to clean the space between different groups of people using it and be clear on who is responsible for taking action if, for example, the timetable changes to more groups using the setting more frequently or government advice on cleaning changes.</p> <p>Providers may therefore wish to have regard to relevant guidance for operators of shared spaces, such as the guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities and the guidance for places of worship.</p>
<p>Out of School and Holiday Care</p>	

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We provide out of school/holiday care only, when can I open?</p> <p>I provide tuition sessions to children, when can I open?</p> <p>Can my school based holiday club still run over the summer, as usual?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Yes, providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children can operate over the summer holiday, subject to the science and with safety measures in place.</i></p> <p><i>Until then, while schools are open, providers should follow the same protective measures as schools to limit different groups of children mixing.</i></p>	<p>Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:</p> <p>The Prime Minister confirmed in his announcement on 23 June, providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children can operate over the summer holiday, subject to the science and with safety measures in place. Providers are now able to open for both outside and indoor provision provided that they follow the protective measures set out by government, such as those outlined in this guidance.</p> <p>Providers who open should implement this guidance from the end of summer term, when state schools in their local area have closed. Until then, while schools are open in a provider's local area, they should follow the same protective measures as schools to limit different groups of children mixing. This means that if a setting opens before the end of the 2020 summer term, they should ensure they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only caring for children from the eligible groups (children in early years, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) and priority groups (children of critical workers and vulnerable children) • only caring for children from one school or early years provider • working closely with the school or early years providers that their children attend, to ensure that, as far as possible, children are kept in the same small consistent groups that they are in throughout the day, and otherwise maintain social distance

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We provide out of school provision during the summer holidays – how should we group children?</p> <p>How do we group children attending our holiday club?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Providers <u>should aim to minimise the number of different people each child comes into contact with.</u> As such, providers should seek to maintain small, consistent groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member.</i></p> <p><i>If you are caring for children both over the age of five and under the age of five, then you could apply the measures outlined in the early years guidance to the children under the age of five, and the protective measures for out of school clubs guidance to the children over the age of five, if it is possible to do so. However, if you have mixed age groups together you will need to, as far as possible, <u>keep all children irrespective of age in small consistent groups of no more than 15 with at least one staff member, or with more staff members to meet relevant ratio requirements.</u></i></p>	<p>Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p><u>To reduce the risk of transmission within a setting, providers should aim to minimise the number of different people each child comes into contact with.</u> As such, providers should seek to maintain small, consistent groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member. This means that at the first session children should be assigned to a particular class or group and should then stay in those consistent groups for future sessions. So, for example on consecutive days or if attending one day per week, from the start of the summer until the end of the summer.</p> <p><u>As far as it is possible, groups should also not be mixing within the setting itself.</u></p> <p>Potential challenges to achieving consistent groups may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children attending based on varying booking patterns • the ongoing receipt of additional bookings throughout the summer period due to work and shift patterns • the emergence of safeguarding or welfare concerns • variance in the ages of children attending • the ‘drop in’ nature of some services and activities, for example support groups for vulnerable young people <p><u>To overcome such challenges, providers must use their best judgement in creating and frequently reviewing groups in order to minimise the amount of ‘mixing’ (for example, the number of different people each child comes into contact with); and should also ensure they are keeping up-to-date records of the children attending their settings, including the specific groups and members of staff they have been assigned to.</u></p> <p><u>Dependent on the factors listed above, you may need to have groups of less than 15 children. As always, any decisions should be taken with full consideration of any ongoing welfare needs or safeguarding concerns.</u></p> <p>If you are operating provision for multiple small groups of children throughout the day, you should allow sufficient changeover time between different classes to allow for cleaning to take place and to prevent children and parents or carers waiting in large groups.</p> <p>As the risk of transmission is considerably lower outdoors, providers who normally run sessions indoors should consider whether they are able to do so safely outside on their premises.</p> <p>If you are unable to keep children in your setting in small consistent groups for future sessions, you should only operate your provision outside and follow the government guidelines on the Phased return of sport and recreation in England, which allow up to six people from different households to meet outdoors.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>We are registered on the Compulsory & Voluntary Childcare register, along with the Ofsted Early Years Register, which guidance should we follow?</p> <p>We have children access our provision from 3yrs to 12yrs, which guidance should we follow?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The guidance states, if you are caring for children both over the age of five and under the age of five, then you could apply the measures outlined in the early years guidance to the children under the age of five, and the protective measures for out of school clubs guidance to the children over the age of five, if it is possible to do so.</i></p>	<p>The Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak states the guidance will be relevant for those providers which fall within the government’s definition of an out-of-school setting (OOSS), as well as those providers caring for children over the age of 5 and registered with Ofsted on either the compulsory or voluntary childcare register. This includes organisations or individuals who provide community activities, tuition, holiday clubs or after-school clubs for children.</p> <p>Providers caring for children under the age of 5 should refer to the guidance for Early Years and Childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>Providers caring for children over the age of 5 should refer to the guidance for organisations or individuals who provide community activities, tuition, holiday clubs or after-school clubs for children (up to age 18).</p> <p>From 20 July, early years settings will no longer be required to keep children in small, consistent groups within settings. This is based on the scientific advice around the small size of early years settings, attendance being more consistent than in some holiday provision, and the risk levels relating to the youngest children. Settings should still consider how to minimise mixing. Therefore, if you are only caring for children under the age of 5 you should refer to the guidance for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p>

Supporting vulnerable children in your school/setting

We have SEND children with personal care needs and children who may present as non-compliant with COVID safety guidelines. What should we do?

Answer: *Having completed your setting risk assessments, settings should work through the [system of controls](#).*

Identifying the unique needs of children with SEND is an important part of these controls.

Some children with SEND are no longer required to shield but remain under the care of a specialist health professional. Their parents may need to discuss their care with the health professional before returning to school in September. It is likely, although not certain that parents of children with SEND will be particularly anxious about their child returning to nursery. Some young children have complex health needs alongside their learning difficulties.

Having completed nursery risk assessments, settings should work through a [system of controls](#).

Identifying the unique needs of children with SEND is an important part of these controls.

There cannot be a 'one size fits all' approach where the system of controls describes every scenario.

We expect education settings, trusts and local authorities to work closely with parents, staff and unions, as they normally would, when agreeing the best approaches for their

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

Some pupils with complex needs will struggle to maintain as good respiratory hygiene as their peers, for example those who spit uncontrollably or use saliva as a sensory stimulant. This should be considered in risk assessments in order to support these pupils and the staff working with them and is not a reason to deny these pupils face to face education. Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in education settings, except where they are already routinely used as part of close contact care.

How can I help the children with SEND transition back into nursery?

Answer: *Particular care will be needed in supporting children with SEND to return to their settings.*

Re-adjustment to the routines in a setting may prove more challenging for some children with SEND than others, and consideration and planning will need to be given as to how to support children to settle back into their setting.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Settings should be alert to the fact that there may be children with additional or worsened social emotional and mental health needs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), and that there may also be children who have fallen further behind their peers as a result of time out of childcare settings, or missed diagnosis as a result of a period of absence.

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>Will I be expected to resume work on learning outcomes for children with SEND?</p> <p>Answer: <i>If the child is in receipt of Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) there is an expectation that children will begin working towards those outcomes identified.</i></p>	<p>Children with SEND frequently enjoy routine and secure environments in order to promote their learning. As with all children feeling safe supports self-confidence and engagements with others. Early years providers understand this and are skilled at creating such spaces. Support and advice regarding the Emotional Well-being needs of SEND children can be sought from the local authority.</p> <p>If the child is in receipt of Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) there is an expectation that children will begin working towards those outcomes identified. However it is also understood that a lot of 'readiness for learning' work may have to be resumed.</p> <p>Early Years providers should follow updates to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) disapplication guidance.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<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>Answer: <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, childminders and early years and childcare 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.</p> <p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>Settings 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 working together to safeguard children. The safeguarding and welfare sections of the EYFS still apply, including requirements relating to child protection arrangements. Settings should work closely with local authorities.</p> <p>Settings must continue to have a designated safeguarding lead for safeguarding. It is acceptable for the safeguarding lead not to be based on-site if this is not practical, as long as they are still available to provide support, advice and guidance to staff. It is important that all childcare staff and volunteers have access to a designated safeguarding lead practitioner and know on any given day who that person is and how to speak to them.</p> <p>The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may have caused significant mental health or well-being difficulties for some children and they may be at increased risk of harm or abuse. Due to current circumstances vulnerable children may be particularly isolated meaning that the family, community and professional networks they usually rely on may be unavailable or hard to access. 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>For schools: https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/safeguarding-covid-19.aspx</p> <p>For EY providers: https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/coronavirus-information/early-years-covid-19-updates.aspx</p> <p>Further information and access to online training is available on The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership website - https://www.ddscp.org.uk/</p>

Implementing protective measures to keep children and adults safe?

From July 20th, do I need a new risk assessment? What has changed?

What do I need to do, so I can have more children back in my setting?

Do I need to change any of the protective measures I have already put in place?

Answer: *All settings are responsible for planning and implementing appropriate protective measures to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission.*

Settings must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures.

Settings should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessment and draw up plans as part of their wider opening.

For early years providers, [government guidance](#) sets out the public health advice which early years providers must follow. It also includes the process that should be followed if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while attending. This guidance has been developed with advice from Public Health England (PHE). These measures make up a 'system of controls', building on the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

All providers must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures.

Providers should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessment and draw up plans as part of their wider opening. Settings should have active arrangements in place to monitor that the controls are effective, working as planned, and updated appropriately considering any issues identified and changes in public health advice. For more information on what is required of employers in relation to health and safety risk assessments, please see [annex A of the guidance for schools](#).

For Out of School Settings (OOSS), risk assessments and preparation for reopening of OOSS should be carried out by a senior member of staff. However, you should also work with other relevant parties when carrying out your risk assessment, such as your staff members, the owner of the premises where your provision is being held, to identify the risks, to determine protective measures to put in place and to establish who is responsible for implementing each protective measure.

The guidance also recommends you consult advice set out by the Health and Safety Executive on coronavirus (COVID-19) www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm and risk assessment <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/risk-assessment.htm>

Where premises may have been closed for several weeks, there are increased risks related to safety concerns around water hygiene as well as building and occupancy safety. You should ensure that all health and safety compliance checks, including a fire risk assessment, have been undertaken before opening by checking with the owner of the premises. If you are the owner of the premises which you operate your provision out of, you may find it useful to refer to the guidance on [Managing school premises during the coronavirus outbreak](#), which outlines the type of checks you should undertake before reopening.

OOSS will have different risks depending on the type of activity or provision they offer. If your setting operates outdoors, you should also refer to Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's [Guidance on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation](#).

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>What do I do if a child shows symptoms of coronavirus?</p> <p>What happens if child or adult becomes symptomatic or has been in contact with someone who is symptomatic?</p> <p>Do I need to close my provision if a child/adult has symptoms of coronavirus?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The government guidance sets out actions a providers should take if a child/adult shows symptoms of coronavirus.</i></p> <p><i>No child/adult should attend if they have symptoms or are unwell.</i></p> <p><i>If a child or member of staff develops symptoms of COVID-19 then they need to go home, and must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).</i></p> <p><i>All schools/providers should communicate their plans with parents, including updated policy for measures they are taking based on the government guidance.</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>If anyone in the setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.</p> <p>If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. PPE must be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).</p> <p>Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any children who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate. However, they must self-isolate if: they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test); if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>All schools/providers must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team. Settings must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and children must not come into the setting if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in the setting. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children under 11 will need to be helped by their parents if using a home testing kit • provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace • self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) <p>If someone tests negative, and they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>What do I do if a member of staff tests positive for COVID-19?</p> <p>What do I do if a parent tells me their child has tested positive for COVID-19?</p> <p>What do I do if a parent tells me they or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19?</p> <p>Answer: <i>If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 the setting must immediately contact their local health protection team who will advise on what actions need to be taken and who must be sent home.</i></p> <p><i>If a member of a child/staff's household tests positive for COVID-19 then only that child/staff member and their household need to self-isolate unless otherwise advised by the local health protection team.</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>If someone tests positive, they should follow Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to the setting only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.</p> <p>Settings must take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Settings should contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact settings directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the setting – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>The local health protection team will work with settings to carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.</p> <p>The health protection team will work with settings in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, settings should send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.</p> <p>The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, we recommend settings keep a record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and staff in specific groups/rooms (where applicable) • close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups/rooms <p>This should be a proportionate recording process. Settings do not need to ask staff to keep definitive records in a way that is overly burdensome.</p> <p>A template letter will be provided to settings, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents and staff if needed. Settings must not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.</p> <p>Household members of those who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.</p> <p>Settings should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
EYFS	
<p>How long do the current EYFS disapplications apply?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The temporary changes that came into force on 24 April 2020, will last throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak or until government stipulates otherwise.</i></p> <p><i>The long end date of the legislative changes is shown in regulations as 25 September 2020, but these will be reviewed on a monthly basis.</i></p>	<p>EYFS Coronavirus Disapplications</p> <p>Once the temporary changes are lifted, providers that have been open during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may need some time to get back to full staffing levels and therefore the government have allowed for a transitional period of up to 2 months, following the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, where the disapplications around staffing qualifications in ratios will still continue.</p> <p>All other disapplications and modifications will cease once the temporary changes are no longer in force, at the end of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak or when government stipulates otherwise. At that point providers should again follow existing EYFS statutory guidance. Providers will be notified when the period ends via official government channels.</p> <p>The long end date of the legislative changes is shown in regulations as 25 September 2020, but these will be reviewed on a monthly basis and disapplications and modifications may be lifted earlier.</p>
<p>When do I need to implement the new ELGs?</p> <p>When will I implement 'new' EYFS?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The DfE have published the government response to the consultation on EYFS reforms, which confirms what changes will be made to the EYFS. Statutory rollout to all early years providers will be the 2021-22 academic year.</i></p>	<p>The DfE have published the government response to the consultation on EYFS reforms, which confirms what changes will be made to the EYFS. Schools were invited to carry out voluntary early adoption of the reforms in 2020-21, ahead of statutory rollout to all early years providers in the 2021-22 academic year.</p>
<p>I am a school, do we need to carry out the new reception baseline assessment (RBA) in September?</p> <p>Answer: <i>No, The DfE have announced, statutory introduction of the RBA has been postponed to Autumn 2021.</i></p>	<p>On June 25th the DfE announced - "Due to the challenging circumstances faced by schools in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, statutory introduction of the RBA has been postponed to Autumn 2021. Instead, schools have the opportunity to sign up to the RBA Early Adopter year to familiarise themselves with assessment materials before the RBA becomes statutory."</p> <p>The recruitment window for schools to sign up opens on 25 June and closes on 24 July 2020.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>I am a school that signed up as an early adopter of the Early Years Reforms, what do I need to do?</p> <p>Will the 'early adopter' year still go ahead for the EYFS reforms?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The DfE have published the Early adopter schools: EYFS profile handbook is for schools participating in the EYFS reforms early adopter year from September 2020 to August 2021.</i></p>	<p>The DfE have published the government response to the consultation on EYFS reforms, which confirms what changes will be made to the EYFS. Schools were invited to carry out voluntary early adoption of the reforms in 2020-21, ahead of statutory rollout to all early years settings in the 2021-22 academic year.</p> <p>Early adopter schools: EYFS profile handbook is for schools participating in the EYFS reforms early adopter year from September 2020 to August 2021.</p> <p>It should be read alongside the early adopter framework.</p>
<p>My paediatric first aid certification will soon expire – is this still a legal requirement?</p> <p>My paediatric first aid expired In April, when do I need to have accessed further training?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The existing requirement remains unchanged.</i></p> <p><i>If your paediatric first aid certificate is due to expire, the DfE has set a final deadline of 30 September 2020 for re-qualification of first aid requirements, which applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020.</i></p> <p><i>New entrants (level 2 and 3) will not need to have completed a full PFA course within their first 3 months in order to be counted in staff to child ratios.</i></p>	<p>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p> <p>The existing requirement remains in place where children aged 0 to 24 months are on site. Paragraph 3.25 and Annex A of the EYFS set out the requirements, including that “<i>at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings.</i>” The existing requirements also remain unchanged for childminders, as they are already required to have full PFA certification.</p> <p>The requirement is modified where children aged 2 to 5 are on site (with no children aged below 24 months) to a best endeavours duty to have someone with a full PFA certificate on site. If all steps set out in the guidance have been exhausted and settings cannot meet the PFA requirement, they must carry out a written risk assessment and ensure that someone with a current First Aid at Work or emergency PFA certificate is on site at all times. If PFA certificate requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with coronavirus (COVID-19), or by complying with related government advice, the validity of current certificates can be extended by up to 3 months. This applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020. If, exceptionally requalification training is still unavailable.</p> <p>If your paediatric first aid certificate is due to expire, the DfE has set a final deadline of 30 September 2020 for re-qualification of first aid requirements, which applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020. The Health and Safety Executive has the same date for re-qualification for First Aid at Work (FAW) and Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW). If asked to do so, providers should be able to explain why the first aider hasn't been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps have taken to access the training. Employers or certificate holders must do their best to arrange requalification training at the earliest opportunity.</p>

FAQ**Government guidance and additional information****Ofsted**

My setting has an Inadequate / Requires Improvement / Not Met Ofsted grade. When will I be re-inspected?

We are due inspection, when will Ofsted start to undertake inspections?

Answer: *It is intended that routine inspections will restart from January 2021.*

In the autumn term, inspectors will commence some regulatory activity to providers who have been judged 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' and have associated actions to fulfil.

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

For Ofsted registered early years provision, and schools it is intended that routine inspections will restart from January 2021 - by which time the EYFS is expected to be reinstated fully - with the exact timing of routine inspections being kept under review.

Ofsted will continue with its registration and regulatory work for early years and childcare providers. Inspectors will look at what progress leaders and managers have made to meet actions set at the last inspection and how they are improving their practice. These visits will not result in a judgement. However, Ofsted will publish a short summary to confirm what it found during the visit.

Funding, Financial and Business Support

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>If parents fail to extend their code or where parents may have lost their jobs, how does that affect their nursery place and ultimately our funding?</p> <p>Critical worker parents do not need to renew their 30 hours code for the summer term, does this apply to all parents?</p> <p>Answer: <i>All parents should be encouraged to renew their 30 hours codes. Where parents have lost their jobs, the grace period would allow them to continue to receive their funding until the grace period expires. This will provide an opportunity to secure alternative employment.</i></p> <p><i>The flexibility in relation for reconfirmation/application of codes is currently only available for the summer term 2020. Parents must have a valid code for the autumn term, so must apply for a code or re-confirm by 31 August 2020 at the latest.</i></p>	<p>We are making some temporary changes to the 30 hours free entitlement and Tax-Free Childcare so that all eligible parents, including critical workers, are not disadvantaged during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>Specifically, parents who will not meet the minimum income threshold (16 hours per week at National Minimum/Living Wage) due to lower earnings as a direct result of coronavirus (COVID-19) will be treated as meeting that test during the outbreak. This will apply only to parents who need to apply for, or reconfirm, their 30 hours and Tax-Free Childcare place during the outbreak this year.</p> <p>Subject to parliamentary approval of a temporary amendment to the 30 hours free childcare and Tax-Free Childcare regulations, we intend to allow critical workers who exceed the maximum income threshold (£100,000 per year), due to increased hours as a direct result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, to remain eligible for 30 hours for the current tax year up to a maximum of £150,000 earnings.</p> <p>These are temporary changes in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak which will be reviewed as the situation develops.</p> <p>DfE had previously asked local authorities to use their discretion to relax the validity dates on 30 hours codes where critical worker parents or parents of vulnerable children were ordinarily eligible and expecting to take up a 30 hours childcare place between 1 April 2020 and 31 August 2020, but had missed the reconfirmation or application deadline of 31 March 2020. This enabled children to take up their places in the summer term.</p> <p>Previously, only the children of critical workers, and children who are vulnerable, were able to access childcare. Now that early years settings are free to open to all children, we are asking local authorities to exercise their discretion in accepting the codes of all children who missed the 31 March deadline, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and where there is capacity for providers to take them on. Providers and local authorities will need to confirm that the child taking up the place did turn 3 before 1 April 2020 to ensure they are eligible for a 30 hours place in the summer term.</p> <p>We are still encouraging parents to continue to apply for, and reconfirm, their 30 hours entitlement, even if they choose to keep their child away from their early years setting, to help them prepare for their transition back into childcare in September.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>I am a private business, I am concerned about the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on my sustainability in the future.</p> <p>How do I find out about how I can access financial help and support?</p> <p>Currently our staff are furloughed and if we are having limited children we wouldn't require staffing are these still able to continue being furloughed?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Government has issued guidance for Education and Early Years providers on how they can access financial support during the Coronavirus outbreak.</i></p> <p><i>LA cannot advise on private arrangements for childcare.</i></p>	<p>The government have put in place a number of funding and financial measures to support organisations both public and private – during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support</p> <p>Some early years settings may also be eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF), or the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund. The details and eligibility criteria for these funds can be found in the guidance for the SBGF and the guidance for the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund. For more information and to find out how to apply for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan scheme, please refer to the Financial support for businesses during coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance.</p> <p>The Chancellor announced July 08th, as part of the plan to support jobs, a Job Retention Bonus to be introduced to help businesses keep furloughed workers. UK Employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who is still employed as of 31 January 2021. Chancellor's Plan for Jobs to help the UK's recovery</p> <p>Local authorities will need to ensure there are sufficient childcare places at this time, and to redistribute funding across settings accordingly – in a clearly focused and targeted way. Any setting which sees their early entitlement funding reduced, in order to fund childcare places elsewhere, may be able to increase the proportion of their salary bill eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in line with guidance on financial support for education, early years and children's social care.</p> <p>As demand for childcare increases and settings re-open, the government expects that providers who furloughed staff will be removing some or all of their staff from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). The CJRS will close at the end of October. More information about the CJRS and the interaction with early years DSG funding is in financial support for education, early years and children's social care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>For further information access - HMRC Videos</p> <p>DfE is considering appropriate measures to monitor the use of these schemes in order to detect any duplication of funding, and will be considering potential options to recover misused public funding as required.</p>

FAQ	Government guidance and additional information
<p>I am worried about the autumn term, how will Early Years Funding be allocated?</p> <p>I am concerned that I will have reduced numbers in Sept how will this affect my funding?</p> <p>I have a number of parents that have chosen to reduce their hours in Sept, how will this impact on my funding?</p> <p>Answer: <i>The government guidance states - From the start of the autumn term 2020, local authorities <u>should continue to fund providers which are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</u> They should also continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons. Local authorities should not fund providers which are closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.</i></p>	<p>Government published July 20th confirms the government’s plans for funding local authorities and providers in the 2020 autumn term. Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus outbreak</p> <p>The guidance states - <i>“We recognise that the number of children attending childcare may not have returned to normal levels by early January, when we take the January 2021 census. In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the final funding allocation to local authorities for the 2020 autumn term will therefore exceptionally be based on their January 2020 census count.”</i></p> <p>The government guidance states - The intention is to fund on the basis of ‘as if autumn term 2020 were happening normally’. In order to do this, local authorities might, for example, use the numbers of children in places in the previous autumn to inform funding levels this autumn.</p> <p>The government encourages all providers to open to deliver childcare places for all children who need it, and to deliver entitlements places, unless they have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons.</p> <p>The government states that Local authorities should not fund providers which are closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.</p> <p>Government expect to return to the normal early years funding process and use the January 2021 census count to drive funding allocations for the 2021 spring term. The guidance states that government expect that local authorities’ funding to providers will return to the normal approach from 1 January 2021.</p> <p>All government guidance will be kept under review and further guidance issued in the autumn.</p>
Further Information	

If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact

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DfE coronavirus helpline

Telephone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk

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. Lines are open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends. If you work in a school/EY Provider, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.