

# Early Years Webinar

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*Information shared is accurate at the time of recording*

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Please email your questions to [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)



# Latest Public Health Position

**For the 7 days up to and including 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 :**

Case rate: 7- day rate = 210.1 per 100,000 population (↑ 32% on previous 7 days)

Case rate among those aged 60+: 7-day rate= 181.3 per 100,000 population (↑ 22% on previous 7 days)

Testing rate: 7- day average 279.4 per 100,00 population (↑ on previous 7 days)

Positivity = 11.5% (↑ on previous 7 days)

See more at: <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/coronavirus>



## Number of new weekly COVID-19 cases by age for Bolton

Age Bracket	01/11/2020 - 07/11/2020	08/11/2020 - 14/11/2020	15/11/2020 - 21/11/2020	22/11/2020 - 28/11/2020	29/11/2020 - 05/12/2020	06/12/2020 - 12/12/2020	13/12/2020 - 19/12/2020	20/12/2020 - 26/12/2020
0-15	174	174	126	101	73	72	55	45
16-24	202	140	92	78	52	40	50	50
25-34	248	213	156	99	83	63	79	95
35-44	262	238	172	100	73	71	66	84
45-54	242	218	139	103	63	67	76	84
55-64	194	153	107	71	57	39	51	60
65-74	93	67	42	36	22	29	35	45
75-84	54	45	27	24	34	22	27	21
85+	24	25	18	25	15	19	15	17



# Covid-19 and Children

- Rates in under 15's remain steady at the moment at under 100 per 100k. Rates in this age group, have remained lower than other age groups since September.
- The underlying issue is high community transmission - case rate trends in the under 15s appear to reflect wider community transmission patterns.
- Rates for 16+ age groups are higher (over 250 per 100k) and rising.
- Early years settings are maintaining good infection control measures, and to date there have been no identified patterns of spread events within those settings.
- There is no evidence at present that the new variant favours certain age groups. It has same age-related transmissibility as other variants.
- No evidence of difference in the rates of early years/teachers/education workers testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 compared to key workers and other professions.
- Young children are at low risk of serious disease.



# National lockdown

## Childcare - There are several ways that parents and carers can continue to access childcare

- Early Years settings (including nurseries and childminders) remain open.
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers can continue to use registered childcare, childminders and other childcare activities (including wraparound care).
- Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with one other household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is under 14. This is mainly to enable parents to work, and must not be used to enable social contact between adults.
- Some households will also be able to benefit from being in a support bubble.
- Nannies will be able to continue to provide services, including in the home.

## Going to school, college and university

- Colleges, **primary (reception onwards)** and secondary schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term. In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.

**Please email questions to** [startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:startwellbookings@bolton.gov.uk)



# Rational for current guidance



The Department for Education has provided the below response to queries on why early years providers have been asked to remain open while schools have been instructed to close, following our meeting with children and families minister Vicky Ford earlier today:

- The reason schools have been restricted is not that they are unsafe but because additional measures are needed to contain the spread of the virus. The wider restrictions in place as part of the national lockdown to contain the spread of the virus in the community enable us to continue prioritising keeping nurseries and childminders open, supporting parents and delivering the crucial care and education needed for our youngest children.
- Early years settings remain low risk environments for children and staff. 0-5 year olds continue to have the lowest confirmed rates of coronavirus of all age groups, and there is no evidence that the new variant of coronavirus disproportionately affects young children. Evidence shows that pre-school children are less susceptible to infection and are not playing a driving role in transmission. There is no evidence the new strain of the virus causes more serious illness in either children or adults and there continues to be strong evidence that children are much less susceptible to severe clinical disease than older people.
- PHE advice remains that the risk of transmission and infection is low if early years settings follow the system of controls, which reduce risks and create inherently safer environments.
- Early years settings have been open to all children since 1 June and there is no evidence that the early years sector has contributed to a rise in virus cases within the community. Early evidence from SAGE showed that early years provision had a smaller relative impact on transmission rate than primary schools, which in turn had a smaller relative impact than secondary schools.
- Early years childcare providers were one of the first sectors to have restrictions lifted last summer, in recognition of the key role they play in society. Childminders and nursery staff across the country have worked hard to keep settings open through the pandemic so that young children can be educated, and parents can work. The earliest years are the most crucial point of child development and attending early education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and supports children's social and emotional development. We continue to

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- Evidence shows that pre-school children are less susceptible to infection and are not playing a driving role in transmission. There is no evidence the new strain of the virus causes more serious illness in either children or adults and there continues to be strong evidence that children are much less susceptible to severe clinical disease than older people.
- PHE advice remains that the risk of transmission and infection is low if early years settings.
- Early years settings have been open to all children since 1 June and there is no evidence that the early years sector has contributed to a rise in virus cases within the community.

**Continuing to share your queries and concerns with the Department for Education and will provide further updates as soon as we can**



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# Issues for clarification to DfE

- **Guidance:** when will the guidance on maintained nursery schools and school based provision staying open be published on gov website? Clarity vital to supporting local discussions with schools and early years settings.
- **Census:** what is the latest status of the January census? Has anything changed in light of last night's update? Update needed urgently as huge resource requirement on localities.
- **Transparency:** rationale behind the decision to keep early years provision open is urgently needed after much concern in the sector around safety. Specifically why they are being treated differently to schools, data showing that early years is less at risk and what evidence is available about the impact of the new variant on transmission in under 5s. The case for early years provision staying open needs to be made.
- **Childminders:** clarification in the guidance is needed around childminders and school age children – our understanding is that childminders should not be taking on school-age children except for wraparound care of vulnerable and key worker children but this is not clear in the guidance.
- **Funding:** what is funding going to be based on for Spring term? Concerns around reductions in numbers at school-based nurseries, lower attendance levels particularly of fee-paying parents. Reverting to summer 2020 attendance would greatly reduce strain on the system right now.
- **EYFS assessments:** are these assessments going to be cancelled in line with Year 11 and 13 examinations?





# Financial support from 1 January 2021

DfE recognise that many early years providers rely on a mix of DSG funding and other income streams such as parental fees.

Where DSG funding has reduced, or non-public income has ceased or reduced, it may be appropriate for providers to seek support from the CJRS to furlough staff. Providers should only furlough employees if they meet the following conditions:

- the employee works in an area of business where services are temporarily not required and whose salary is not covered by public funding
- the employee would otherwise be made redundant or laid off
- the employee is not involved in delivering provision that has already been funded
- the employee is not required to deliver provision for an attending child
- the grant from CJRS would not duplicate other public grants received and would not lead to financial reserves being created

If it is difficult to distinguish whether staff are funded through continuing public funding, for the purposes of meeting the first 3 conditions listed above, then the total proportion of staff (based on gross payroll) that are retained (for example, not furloughed) should, as a minimum, be equivalent to the continuing DSG funding, as a proportion of all income that the provider usually receives. For example, if the current DSG funding is equivalent to 25% of normal total income, then this should be the proportion of staff (based on gross payroll) that could not be furloughed.



Department for Education

Guidance

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care

Updated 17 December 2020

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### Main changes to previous guidance

The early years section of the sector-specific guidance has been updated to reflect the interaction between the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and 2021 spring term funding.

### Application of coronavirus (COVID-19) support for businesses and government funding for the education, early years and children's social care sectors

The government has put in place a number of funding and financial measures to support organisations – both public and private – during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These are intended to be temporary, timely and targeted, to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption. This guidance sets out the financial support that is available for different types of education, early years and





# Communications

- A system wide 'Comms Cell' is in place, including representation from The Cabinet Office, the Council, CCG, Foundation Trust, Police, social housing, CVS
- The LA represents schools on this based on:
  - LA understanding of what's needed
  - Feedback from the Tactical Group / Schools Cluster links
- Recognition of message fatigue in the community, but need to continue
- If there are any key messages that you think the Comms Cell can help to develop and get out in the community, please let us know



# EYFF funding Spring term

- The Government will fund all local authorities on the basis of their January 2021 census for the spring term.
- Full guidance can be access here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-coronavirus-covid-19#section-one>

## Payments to Providers

- Following Government guidance please note that Spring term 2021 will need to be paid on actuals. If a child should move settings during this term **the funding will follow the child**.
- The projected overspend on the Dedicated School Grant is currently £300k due to the protection provided in Autumn term therefore there is no funding available for duplicate payments in Spring term.
- To keep adjustments to a minimum we ask for your help by updating the portal **as soon as possible**, when a child moves or joins your setting.
- Encouraging parents to settle their child in before census week will also help Bolton Council with the monies that will be allocated for the year ahead.
- Census week is the Week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



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# EYFF funding Spring term

## Actions

- Keep your portal up to date. If a child does not attend remove them from the headcount.
- If a new starter attends then add them to the portal.
- Funding has to follow the child (notice periods do not apply to EYFF).
- If a parent decides not to send their child you are not able to claim that funding.
- Duplicates need to be reclaimed to avoid increasing the deficit that is currently at £300k.



# Proposed EYFF funding April 2021

The Government has announced the Early Years funding for Bolton for 2021-22. The Early Years block has increased by £294,000.

This represents an increase to the national base rates:-

- 8 pence per hour for 2 year olds
- 6 pence per hour for 3 and 4 year olds
- It is proposed to pass this increase **in full** to providers, i.e. to increase the base rates to providers by the same value per hour as received from the Government.
- This proposal will be taken to the Executive Cabinet Member Meeting on 8th February for approval.
- Early Years Pupil Premium and Disabled Access Funding will remain at the same rates as 2020-21 as these are grants.



# Questions



# Links

- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf)
- <https://pre-schoollearningalliance2.createsend.com/campaigns/reports/viewCampaign.aspx?d=d&c=1493A399420F6B62&ID=4CF5956DD967E9012540EF23F30FED&temp=False&tx=0&source=Report>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>