

Public Health Updates Relevant to Education

Period Covered: 18.12.2020 – 7.1.2021

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A. New Guidance:

[National lockdown: Stay at Home](#)

- Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly across the country. Find out what you can and cannot do. (Published 4/1/2021)

[Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools](#)

- This guidance includes new information on:
 - Attendance – including confirmation of who should attend (including in alternative provision and special schools) and how attendance should be recorded
 - Testing – including confirmation that the testing programme can continue in secondary schools
 - Workforce – including advice for those who are extremely clinically vulnerable
 - Free School Meals
 - Educational visits – confirmation that no visits should take place during this period
 - Remote education – including further information on remote education expectations
 - Accountability expectations – including inspections, exams and assessments

(Published January 2021)

[Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges](#)

- Guidance on how to administer testing which will begin in January 2021.

(Published 18/12/2020 and updated 31/12/2020 by removing the consent form)

[COVID-19 National Testing Programme: Schools & Colleges handbook](#)

(Published 4/1/2021)

[Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

- How schools, colleges, academy trusts and local authorities can access digital devices for children who are learning remotely. (Published 7/1/2021)

B.Updated Guidance:

[Get help with technology during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

- Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children's social care.
- Updated to reflect school closures

(Updated 7/1/2021)

School attendance: guidance for schools

- This guidance covers registers and attendance codes (including circumstances due to coronavirus (COVID-19)), school hours and term dates, and improving school attendance.
- Updated to reflect the temporary disapplication of offences for non-attendance in schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Disapplication notice: school attendance legislation changes

- Secretary of State for Education issues fifth notice to disapply offences for non-attendance in schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes

- Secretary of State for Education issues a ninth notice about changes to state-funded school inspection requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Added the Education Act 2005: school inspection disapplication notice January 2020.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

Modification notice: school registration legislation changes

- Secretary of State for Education issues a ninth notice to modify pupil registration requirements for temporary pupils during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Added the Education Act 1996: school registration modification notice January 2021.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable

- Information for shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.
- Updated guidance for the period of national lockdown.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings

- List of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Updated with information about the return to school and college in January, and added those whose work is critical to EU Transition to the list of critical workers.
- Removed tiered guidance information. The list of vulnerable children and children of critical workers remains the same.

(Updated 5/1/2021)

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

- This guidance provides details of support and government funding for organisations in education, childcare, children's social care
- 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.
- Updated to reflect the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to 30 April 2021.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

- Funding for local authorities and early years providers through the early years dedicated schools grant (DSG) in the summer and autumn term 2020.
- This guidance has been updated to set out the government's plans for funding local authorities and childcare providers in the 2021 spring term – this is in section 1. The previously published guidance on early years funding is still valid until 31 December – this is in section 2. Section 2 has been updated to clarify that it refers to the period before the start of the 2021 spring term, and certain paragraphs have been removed to avoid duplication with other, more up to date guidance.

(Updated 17/12/2020)

Guidance for full opening: schools

- This guidance is intended to support schools, both mainstream and alternative provision, to prepare for all pupils, in all year groups, remaining in school full-time throughout the autumn term.
- Updated information on pregnant employees.
- Added guidance for schools on restricting attendance and other actions to be followed during the national lockdown.
- A link has also been added to the [contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#) which sets out how restrictions would work in the rare circumstances they are needed.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Contingency framework for education and childcare settings

- This guidance sets out how settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Updated information for boarding schools, special schools and special post-16 institutions.
- Removed the implementation guidance as this no longer applies. Different education restrictions apply during the national lockdown.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings

- Guidance with information on what all special schools and other specialist settings will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term to support the return of children and young people with special education needs and disability (SEND).
- Updated information on pregnant employees.
- Added 'Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings'.

(Updated 31/12/2020)

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

- What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term.
- Updated information on pregnant employees.
- Added guidance for schools on restricting attendance and other actions to be followed during the national lockdown.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

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

- What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Updated information on pregnant employees.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak

- Sets out what further education (FE) providers need to know for the autumn term so that students of all ages can benefit from their education and training in full.
- Updated information on pregnant employees.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

Further education (FE) providers: return in January 2021

- Guidance to help further education (FE) providers put in place testing to ensure education resumes in January 2021.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

- Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in the autumn term.
- Updated to reflect announcements about the phased return of secondary schools and colleges and the use of the contingency framework in some primary schools.

(Updated 31/12/2020)

Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

- Updated to reflect changes to the contingency framework and the January 2021 return to school guidance.

(Updated 31/12/2020)

Schools and childcare settings: return in January 2021

- This guidance explains what schools and childcare providers need to do at the start of the spring term, including information on the return of schools with secondary-age pupils and asymptomatic testing for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Updated to reflect the phased return for secondary-age pupils.

(Updated 30/12/2020)

Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Guidance with information on what school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- Added 'Asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges'.
- Added a link to 'Schools and childcare settings: return in January 2021'.

(Updated 18/12/2020)

Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care

- This guidance provides information on preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE, in education, childcare and children's social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak.
- The guidance has been updated with information on PPE supply and guidance added about residential settings, including information about visits from social care workers and visitors.

(Updated 14/12/2020)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): test kits for schools and FE providers

- Guidance for schools and further education (FE) providers on the initial supply of coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits for pupils, teachers and staff.
- Changes to the isolation period (from 14 days to 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive) in the positive and negative result sections.

(Updated 14/12/2020)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): assessment processes for selective school admissions

- Guidance on entry testing for admission to state-funded selective schools during the coronavirus outbreak.
 - Updated guidance (paragraph 22) on clinically extremely vulnerable children in tier 4.
- (Updated 23/12/2020)

Guidance for the Christmas Period (Education Section)

- Guidance for the Christmas Period.
- (Updated 19/12/2020 with new guidance issued)

Foreign travel advice

- This guidance provides advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on coronavirus, safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings. Further information on the countries, territories and regions from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate can also be found in [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel corridors](#)
 - *This may be useful for schools in relation to children or staff returning to school from holidays abroad.*
- (Updated 19/12/2020)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers

- Walking, cycling, and travelling in vehicles or on public transport during the coronavirus outbreak.
 - Added national lock down information.
- (Updated 5/1/2021)

COVID-19 vaccination programme

- Documents relating to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme.
 - Revised COVID-19 vaccination training slide set and Priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination: advice from the JCVI, 30 December 2020.
- (Updated 31/12/2020)

Ofsted Updates

Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update

- Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers.
 - Updated sections on first aid certificates and early years foundation stage (EYFS) requirements for childcare providers and added information about taking records off site.
- (Updated 16/12/2020)

Ofsted COVID-19 series

- Briefing notes, commentaries from Amanda Spielman and data about providers that Ofsted have visited or spoken to during the interim phase of our return to routine inspection.
 - Updated - Added briefing notes for November together with a commentary.
- (Updated 15/12/2020)

Childcare providers: telling Ofsted about significant events

- From the end of January 2021, childminders, nurseries and all other childcare providers must use an online notification form to tell us about significant events.
- (Published 4/1/2021)

C. National Data Releases / Updates:

[The R number and growth rate in the UK](#) (Released 23/12/2020)

- As of 23/12/2020 the latest R number range for the UK is 1.1 to 1.3 (which means that on average every 10 people infected will infect between 11 to 13 other people) and the latest growth rate range for the UK is 1% to 6% per day (which means the number of new infections is increasing by 1% to 6% every day). Daily information can be found at [The official UK Government website for data and insights on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\). Daily Update](#)
- The UK estimates of R and growth rate are averages over very different epidemiological situations and should be regarded as a guide to the general trend rather than a description of the epidemic state.

[National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports \(Official Statistics\)](#)

- National influenza and COVID-19 report, monitoring coronavirus (COVID-19) activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. Summary and key headlines can be found in the [Weekly national flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports published](#)
- Latest Update added.

(Updated 7/1/2021)

[Coronavirus cases by local authority: epidemiological data \(Collection\)](#)

- Weekly watchlist giving epidemiological coronavirus (COVID-19) data for each lower-tier local authority in England.
- Latest data added for coronavirus cases by local authority.

(Updated 6/1/2021)

[Weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace \(England\) and coronavirus testing \(UK\)](#)

- Experimental statistics from the NHS Test and Trace service and related documents.
- Added latest report and information on reporting for 24 December and 31 December.

(Updated 17/12/2020)

[Coronavirus Act two-monthly reports](#)

- Two-monthly reports on which powers in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are currently active.
- The latest two-monthly report has been added [Coronavirus Act report: November 2020](#)

(Updated 1/12/2020)

[COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey Round 1, England: November 2020](#)

- Initial estimates of staff and pupils testing positive for COVID-19 from the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey across a sample of schools, within high and low prevalence Local Authority areas in England. This survey is being delivered in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Public Health England.

(Published 17/12/2020)

[Survey of childcare and early years providers and coronavirus \(COVID-19\): wave 2](#)

- Wave 2 of research with childcare providers in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19).

(Published 17/12/2020)

[Reported coronavirus \(COVID-19\) cases by registered early years and childcare settings](#)

- This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week.

- Added data for weeks beginning 30 November and 7 December 2020.

(Published 29/12/2020)

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

- This collection of documents outlines summary of attendance during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in education settings since 23/3/2020 and early years settings since 16/4/2020.
- The collection has been updated by adding 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March to 10 December 2020'.

(Updated 15/12/2020)

[Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers progress data](#)

- Information about how many laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers we have delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts.
- Updated with 'Added 'Devices and 4G wireless routers data as of December'.

(Updated 22/12/2020)

[COVID-19: impact on vaccination programmes](#)

- Reports assessing the impact of COVID-19-related physical distancing measures on delivery of childhood vaccination programmes in England.
- Added ninth report covering vaccine counts to week 51 and vaccine coverage to November 2020.

(Updated 5/1/2021)

D. News / Press Releases / Other:

[Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on COVID-19 regulations: 6 January 2021](#)

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a statement to the House of Commons.

(Published 6/1/2021)

[Education Secretary outlines plans to support young people](#)

- Pupils to receive set number of hours of remote education each day and Ofsted to inspect where it has concerns

(Published 6/1/2021)

[A message from Simon Lebus, Chief Regulator, on exams in 2021](#)

- Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator, responds to the Prime Minister's announcement of 4 January.

(Published 6/1/2021)

[COVID-19 infection rates in schools mirror rates in the community](#)

- Study finds infection rates among students and staff in schools were linked to those found in the wider community at the peak of the second wave.

(Published 17/12/2020)

[UK COVID-19 alert level methodology: an overview](#)

- Explains the criteria used to move between the alert levels set out in the UK government's COVID-19 recovery plan.

(Published 5/1/2021)

[Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine authorised by UK medicines regulator](#)

- Update from the Government about the Oxford University/AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine.

(Published 30/12/2020)

[Military to support the testing of thousands of secondary school and college students in England](#)

- UK Military personnel will provide planning and training support to secondary schools and colleges with testing at the start of the spring term.

(Published 29/12/2020)

[Letter from Dame Glenys Stacey to AoC, Sixth Form Colleges' Association, HOLEX, AELP, the Exams Office and ASCL](#)

- Ofqual's Acting Chief Regulator writes about vocational and technical qualifications in letter to education sector bodies.

(Published 17/12/2020)

[COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\): information about the new virus variant](#)

- The new strain transmits more easily than the previous variant but there is no evidence that it is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality.

(Published 20/12/2020)

[CBBC doctors join NHS Test and Trace in fight against coronavirus](#)

- A new website will help children and young people better understand how to keep safe during the pandemic, as well as guiding them through the testing process.

(Published 17/12/2020)

E. Local Public Health Intelligence:

Bolton's Public Health team share data on COVID in Bolton, via the dedicated webpage at <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/coronavirus>. This webpage provides access to the range of local analyses of COVID-19, along with access to the daily data for Bolton, postcode look ups to view cases and deaths in smaller areas, and a weekly note summarising COVID in Bolton, along with links to a selection of the national guidance. Please use Google Chrome or Firefox as your internet browser for the best experience.

This webpage is part of the newly developed website for Bolton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), www.boltonjsna.org.uk which provides a local picture of health and wellbeing needs and the underlying determinants of health in the borough. At the present time, this website is a prototype, and its release has been accelerated to enable wider access to a range of data, including the local COVID analyses. At this stage it contains a core set of data on the population, their health and the underlying factors that influence health and wellbeing in the borough, and we will be adding new analyses and resources as these are completed to grow a rich repository of data and intelligence for the borough.

We will endeavour to summarise key Covid related information for education settings in addition to this website to help you keep up to date. Current details can be found in this weekly update on the Extranet.