

Early Years and Prevention Service Weekly News Bulletin: 30th September 2020

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NHS Contact Tracing app - Covid 19

Please can you be reminding staff and families about the current messages to adhere to:

- Self Isolation if symptomatic
- Hands/Face/Space
- The rule of 6

Further promotional material can be accessed here: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/>



Letter to share with parents on coronavirus (COVID-19) testing

Public Health England has produced a [letter for schools and colleges to share with parents](#) which explains when a child requires a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and what the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are.

The intention of the letter is to support parents and carers in identifying when their child needs to self-isolate as a result of displaying coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing. We ask that you share this letter with parents and carers of children at your school or college.



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NHS Test and Trace COVID-19 app – resources for schools, parents and young people

NHS Test and Trace has launched the [NHS COVID-19 app](#). The app has been launched to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action.

The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone aged 16 or over. This means that some students in year 11, students in years 12, 13 and in further education colleges will be eligible to use the app and benefit from its features. In addition to the [guidance for schools and further education colleges](#) which we published yesterday, NHS Test and Trace has published [guidance and resources to support the use of the app](#) which are available to download.

Schools and further education colleges may find the [fact sheet for parents](#) and the [poster about storing phones in lockers](#) useful.

Advice service for nurseries, schools and colleges to respond to a positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Public Health England (PHE) has introduced a new dedicated advice service, delivered by NHS Business Services Authority, for nurseries, schools and colleges. The service is for those needing support on the action they should take when they have been informed of a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their setting (i.e. a pupil or staff member testing positive).

It can be reached by calling the Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1. This option will take you through to a dedicated team of NHS Business Services Authority advisors who will work through a risk assessment with you to identify close contacts, and will inform you what action is needed based on the latest public health advice.

Advisors will be responsible for referring more complex cases to the PHE regional health protection team, as necessary, following a triaging of your circumstances during the call.

Phone: 0800 046 8687 – option 1

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

Winter flu and implications on COVID

A flu campaign had now launched, aimed at doubling the number of people vaccinated due to the link to COVID

As partners, we are all being asked to promote the importance of the flu vaccine, especially in light of covid. Please alert staff and families at every opportunity, and using any platform necessary.



Get fit to fight the virus

There is a new physical activity campaign launched on the 21st to help protect residents from the worst of COVID – www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/fit2fightcovid

Leading a physically active lifestyle can reduce the risk of various diseases, such as viral infections like coronavirus. Regular, daily exercise can enhance the immune system & help you lose weight.

Check early years qualifications

Find out if a person's qualifications allow them to work in an early years setting, and if you can include them in staff:child ratios.

Change made: Updated information on 'temporary flexibilities' that may apply to this guidance to reflect changes to regulations.

Updated 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder?utm_source=bd8eb957-66bc-4f99-8418-7bad10a44d1a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

EYFS staff:child ratios – DfE approved qualifications

Lists of qualifications that meet DfE's criteria for counting in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework staff:child ratios.

Change made: Updated 'Early years qualifications: from September 2014' document as it includes new qualifications. Also updated 'Early years qualifications: pre September 2014' document as it clarifies qualifications taken in Wales and NI.

Updated: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eyfs-staffchild-ratios-dfe-approved-qualifications?utm_source=8d1e6131-f43a-4356-bb95-aa74abe4c898&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Early years foundation stage: coronavirus disapplications

The disapplications relating to paediatric first aid (PFA) and qualification requirements related to ratios have a two month transitional period and so will end on **25 November 2020**.

The validity of PFA certificates which expired during the outbreak is also extended to **25 November 2020** at the latest. This applies to certificates expiring on or after **16 March 2020**.

New legislation

From **26 September 2020**, new disapplications come into force where a provider can disapply specific elements of the EYFS in the event of a local or further national lockdown.

These would only apply where a provider is prevented from complying with the requirements of the EYFS due to coronavirus related restrictions or requirements which have been imposed on a geographical area by regulations or a direction (a local lockdown for example).

These disapplications are very similar to the previous modifications, covering learning and development requirements, PFA, qualifications relating to ratios and the 2 year check. The difference is that the EYFS profile is not covered by these new disapplications.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications?utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=f82c83d853-

EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-f82c83d853-321554625&mc_cid=f82c83d853&mc_eid=6e26d5602e

Teaching during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information, guidance and support for teachers and leaders on educating children during the coronavirus outbreak.

Change made: Updated with information on remote education expectations and remote education webinars.

Updated: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=ba454788-e0c7-4366-84f6-07dc93343be8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Remote education webinars

How to access school-led webinars on remote education to help share good practice.

First published: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-webinars?utm_source=592f0f64-20e6-4841-b6c8-75e5a92962b2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Childcare: reporting children's accidents and injuries

Find out whether you need to tell Ofsted about an accident, injury or illness a child suffers while in your care.

Change made: Added the requirement to notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in staff or children.

Updated: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-reporting-childrens-accidents-and-injuries?utm_source=3293bd72-fbf1-4365-919b-9a5d12568bc0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Report a serious childcare incident

Ofsted-registered childminders, nannies, nurseries and other daycare must use this service to report significant events affecting their childcare within 14 days.

Change made: Added information about reporting confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) and any related closures.

Updated: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident?utm_source=7b5e6a35-70fe-4759-a339-19bf55176e9&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

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.

Change made: Added information for childcare providers about reporting cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) to Ofsted and any related closures.

Updated: 25 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_source=89298bf4-13ef-4ecd-b95d-6f84350f6927&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

HMRC: New COVID-19 support schemes announced

Additional government support has been announced this week for businesses and employees impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) across the UK.

This includes a new Job Support Scheme to protect the jobs of millions of people returning to work, extending the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, extending the VAT cut (from 20% to 5%) for the hospitality and tourism sectors, and help for businesses in repaying government-backed loans.

Further information on these new schemes is available in this email and on GOV.UK, by searching 'Winter Economy Plan 2020'.

Our phone lines and webchat are very busy, so the quickest way to find the support you need is on GOV.UK. This will leave our phone lines and webchat service open for those who need them most.

Job Support Scheme

A new Job Support Scheme will be introduced from 1 November to protect jobs where businesses are facing lower demand over the winter months due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Under the scheme, which will run for six months, the government will contribute towards the wages of employees who are working fewer than normal hours due to decreased demand.

You will continue to pay the wages for the hours your staff work. For the hours not worked, you and the government will each pay one third of their usual wages (capped at £697.92 per month). You will need to meet your share of the pay for unworked hours and all your National Insurance contributions and statutory pension contributions, from your own funds. This means that employees will receive at least two thirds of their usual wages for the hours not worked.

To be eligible, employees must:

- be registered on your PAYE payroll on or before 23 September 2020. This means a Real Time Information (RTI) submission notifying payment in respect of that employee must have been made to HMRC on or before 23 September 2020
- work at least 33% of their usual hours. The government will consider whether to increase this minimum hours threshold after the first three months of the scheme.

Further eligibility criteria is available on GOV.UK by searching 'Job Support Scheme factsheet'.

The Job Support Scheme will be open to employers across the UK even if you have not previously applied under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which closes on 31 October.

The Job Support Scheme will start from 1 November and you will be able to claim in December. Grants will be paid on a monthly basis.

The scheme will operate in addition to the Job Retention Bonus. You and your employees can benefit from both schemes in order to help protect viable jobs.

For information on what is covered by the grant, which employers and employees are eligible, and how to claim, search 'Job Support Scheme factsheet' on GOV.UK.

Extension to the reduced rate of VAT for Hospitality and Tourism

The government has extended the temporary reduced rate of VAT (5%) to tourist attractions and goods and services supplied by the hospitality sector. This relief came into effect on 15 July 2020 and will now end on 31 March 2021 across the UK.

VAT Deferral New Payment Scheme

If you deferred payments that were due between 20 March and 30 June 2020, then these payments need to be made to HMRC by 31 March 2021. You can use the New Payment Scheme to spread these payments over equal instalments up to 31 March 2022. Alternatively, you can make payments as normal by 31 March 2021 or make Time To Pay arrangements with HMRC if you need more tailored support.

New Self Assessment Self-Serve Time To Pay Scheme

If you deferred paying your July 2020 Payment on Account, you will need to pay the deferred amount, in addition to any balancing payment and first 2020/21 Payment on Account, by 31 January 2021. This may be a larger payment than you usually pay in January.

If you're unable to pay your Self-Assessment (SA) bill in full by 31 January 2021, you can set up a Time to Pay payment plan of up to 12 months online without speaking to us. If you have SA tax debts of up to £30,000, you'll be able to access this Time to Pay facility through GOV.UK and will get automatic and immediate approval. If your SA debts are over £30,000, or you need longer than 12 months to repay your debt in full, you will still be able to use our Time to Pay arrangement by calling HMRC.

Other business support schemes:

Changes to CJRS – what you need to do from 1 October

From **1 October**, HMRC will pay **60%** of usual wages up to a cap of £1,875 per month for the hours furloughed employees do not work.

You will continue to pay your furloughed employees at least 80% of their usual wages for the hours they do not work, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. **You will need to fund the difference between this and the CJRS grant yourself.**

The caps are proportional to the hours not worked. For example, if your employee is furloughed for half their usual hours in October, you are entitled to claim 60% of their usual wages for the hours they do not work, up to £937.50 (half of £1,875 cap). You must still pay your employee at least 80% of their usual wages for the hours they don't work, so for someone only working half their usual hours you'd need to pay them up to £1,250 (half of £2,500 cap), funding the remaining portion yourself. For help with calculations, search 'Calculate how much you can claim using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme' on GOV.UK.

You'll also continue to pay your furloughed employees' National Insurance and pension contributions from your own funds.

Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from 1 October mean that employers will need to fund 20% of furloughed employees' usual wages for the hours they do not work and continue to pay their National Insurance and pension contributions.

Make sure you have the latest information by joining the live webinar:

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

We'll provide an overview of the scheme, including flexible furloughing, examples of how to work out the amount you can claim and the changes for October.

We'll also share information on the Job Retention Bonus, including how to check if you're eligible.

[Choose a date and time](#)

If you haven't been able to join our popular webinar about the **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme**, more dates have now been added. Get the latest information on:

- who can claim
- who you can claim for
- how to make a claim
- what you may be entitled to, and more.

Choose a date and time

You can ask questions during all our live webinars using the on-screen text box.

Our webinars are constantly updated to provide the latest government guidance on changes as they develop.

Information for Childminders: Potential Fraud

It has been brought to our attention that there is a potentially fraudulent company making contact with childminders across the south east stating that they are working with local authorities to have an integrated account regarding funded early education payments. Please see the email below.

We just wanted to let you know that Slough Borough Council is in **no way connected to this company** and we would urge you to be cautious in your dealings with them. If you are contacted by this company, we would advise you contact Trading Standards at Slough Borough Council **Tel: 01753 475111**

It would also be helpful if you would kindly let me know if are contacted by this company either by phone or email, so we can monitor the situation.

Hello,

*I'm Francesca Chong, the head of Yoopies UK. Our mission is to **support childminders**, so that flexible, affordable childcare is accessible to everyone who needs it.*

*We have a **free website for childminders** to find families in Reading, with lots of additional features designed to support you, including:*

- *An easy to use scheduling and payment system to ensure **childcare providers are paid for the correct hours, on time**, every time*
- *Regularly updated **free guides and advice** written by childcare experts*
- *Personalised **contract generation** (coming soon)*
- ***Integration with Reading Borough Council** to manage your funded places automatically without needing to go to your Early Years Headcount Portal (coming soon)*

*All of this, to make parents' access to childcare a reality, and to ease the admin hassle for childminders - completely **free of charge** to you! And unlike some websites, we are **free from start to finish**, that means **unlimited free contacting, bookings and commission-free earnings**.*

*If you want to be informed on when the integration with Reading Borough Council will be live, click [here](#) and sign up for your free childminder account on Yoopies. It takes 5 minutes and you can even start finding new families to work with in your area while our integration is getting ready, with no more invoicing to manage - **we'll handle all the admin for you**.*

[Get my free childminder account](#)

Summer-born children: school admission

Guidance about school admissions for children born in the summer.

Updated 'Admission of summer-born children: advice for local authorities and school admission authorities' and added 'Summer-born children starting school: advice for parents'.

Updated: 24 September 2020

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission?utm_source=dad232ec-6a77-4df3-a68c-c6e77b6b2c28&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Children's Commissioner: Childhood in the time of Covid

Six months have passed since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold in this country and we entered an unprecedented lockdown. During this time, I have made it my Office's mission to highlight the risks to children caused by the pandemic and the measures to contain it, particularly the most vulnerable, and push for their interests to be a top priority.

To read more visit: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/childhood-in-the-time-of-covid/>

Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in Slough: focused visit

The council were informed this week by Ofsted they would be inspecting Children's Services in Slough through a focused visit. They will be looking at children's services across both the Council and Trust.

We do know that the inspectors will be spending most of their time with frontline staff looking at cases and following up different aspects of those cases. Ofsted may wish to meet with certain partners either in relation to a specific case and / or to discuss a key line of enquiry. In the unlikely event that you are called upon, please could you ensure that a representative from your organisation is able to contribute?

This focused visit is an opportunity for us all to demonstrate the hard work both by the Council, Trust and partners to provide good outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Poetry Journey – See it Like a Poet on your Active Park Walk

To celebrate National Poetry Day on 1st October, Slough Borough Council's Libraries and Culture Service has collaborated with Slough Public Health to create a poetry journey. Six beautiful poems have been embedded into the **Active Park Walks at Salt Hill Park, Kennedy Park, Upton Court Park and Upton Lea.**

At each stage of your walk you'll unlock some wonderful words to inspire you on your journey. Discover all six poems to enter a prize draw and the chance to win a pedometer or a bundle of books. We hope these works will inspire you to explore more poetry from Slough Libraries and enjoy the beauty of our green spaces, as well as keeping fit and active. The poetry journey will be available throughout October: <https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/active-park-walks/>