Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Guidance and support

Department

Part of

Education and childcare during coronavirus

for Education

Guidance

settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers Updated 2 June 2020

nurseries, schools and colleges from 1 June.

coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Opening schools and educational

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or college?

Updates: this guidance has been updated to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government's 5 tests have been met and the decision, based on all

know about schools, colleges and other education settings during the

Information for parents and carers to help prepare for the wider opening of

You can also read existing guidance about what parents and carers need to

Search

the evidence, to move forward with wider opening of education and childcare settings. These are very challenging times for our country. Measures put in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) have been hard for us all, but have kept people safe

and saved lives. Keeping people safe continues to be the government's priority.

Since 23 March, in line with the scientific advice, nurseries, schools and colleges have remained open to a priority group of children and young people, children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We have been clear that we would review this arrangement in line with scientific advice. We are now past the peak of the virus and the Prime Minister has set out a <u>recovery strategy</u>, while also ensuring that safety remains

our absolute priority. This means it is time to begin the phased return of children and young people to nurseries, schools and colleges in a way that is measured, reduces risks and is guided by science.

Why can more children now attend school and childcare settings? We want to get all children back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know it is good for children's mental wellbeing to have social interactions with other children, carers and teachers.

As a result of the huge efforts everyone has made to adhere to strict social distancing

measures, the government's 5 tests have been met, meaning we can move forward with

modifying measures which have been in place. Based on all the evidence, from the week

commencing 1 June, we can welcome back more children to early years and primary school settings, and from 15 June to secondary school and further education settings. Schools, colleges and childcare providers have been planning on this basis, and confirmation that this could go ahead was provided by the Prime Minister on 28 May.

We have been guided by scientific advice at every stage. The latest scientific advice to government is that: • there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus (COVID-19) and there is moderately high

What does the latest scientific advice say?

measures in place to reduce risks We have provided advice to schools and other settings on the steps they should consider taking, this includes: • limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children (such as smaller class sizes with children and staff spread out more)

additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good

From the week commencing 1 June, we are asking:

Can my child return to school?

groups and informed by risk assessments

From the 15 June, we are asking:

who are not?

families be managed?

other settings to take include:

- vulnerable children and children of critical workers they have been supporting since the end of March • special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools to work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year
- This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the children and young people who can benefit from attending most

What if my child is eligible but has siblings

We are asking that only these year groups return to childcare providers, schools and

which should remain their predominant mode of education during this term

colleges from 1 June or 15 June. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.

implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to help them to reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return. To prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), schools and other settings will use a range of protective measures to create safer environments in which the risk of

spreading the virus is substantially reduced. Whilst such changes are likely to look

designed to minimise risks to children, staff and their families.

different in each setting, as they will depend upon individual circumstances, they are all

Schools and other settings should communicate their plans to parents once they have

had a chance to work through them in detail. Approaches we are asking schools and

We have provided guidance and support to schools, colleges and childcare settings on

 carrying out a risk assessment before opening to more children and young people the assessment should directly address risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) so that sensible measures can be put in place to minimise those risks for children, young people and staff

• cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such

break times or by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for

You should notify your child's school or college as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Do all vulnerable children and young people

back to childcare settings, school or college

Educational settings should continue to offer places to priority groups. In particular, as

per the existing guidance on supporting vulnerable children and young people during

expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for

For children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless their social worker

the coronavirus outbreak, vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be

who are not currently attending have to go

expected where it is determined, following a risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment. For children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local

Should I keep my child at home if they have

an underlying health condition or live with

someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and

shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can

be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those

extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and

Can children be tested for the virus?

parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.

including those who are pregnant, can attend.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in my child's school, college or childcare setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with

will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their

advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider

they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and

coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days.

Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students

class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the

Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and

will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some

cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate

at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group.

child or young person's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that schools and childcare settings must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Early years settings should use their best endeavours to deliver the learning and development requirements as far as possible in the current circumstances.

Schools and colleges continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to

• assessment of where pupils are in their learning in order to make any necessary

• prioritisation of high needs groups and support for those in transition years

support and educate their pupils during this period. This will include:

• consideration of pupils' mental health and wellbeing

adjustments to their curriculum over the coming weeks

childcare, school or college?

Education settings still have the flexibility to provide support and education to children

Children, young people and parents are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times. You can refer to the government's guidance on safe travel, particularly on public transport. Home to school transport provided or organised by schools, trusts or local authorities varies widely. Schools, trusts and local authorities should work together and with relevant transport providers to put in place arrangements which fit the local circumstances, including the measures being put in place to reduce contact. Further

guidance is available on implementing protective measures in education and childcare

Will school meals be available for children

Schools should provide meal options for all children who are in school, and meals

should be available free of charge where pupils meet the free school meal eligibility

criteria. To ensure food is available for pupils who attend, educational settings are

and young people who are in school?

<u>Is there anything wrong with this page?</u> No The UK has left the EU

• limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission • schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put

scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if

infected with coronavirus (COVID-19)

hand and respiratory hygiene

 nurseries and other early year providers, including childminders, to begin welcoming back all children • primary schools and alternative provision to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), reception, year 1 and year 6

all schools and childcare providers to continue to offer places to the priority groups –

they have no year 12) are able to do so.

secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin offering some

face-to-face support to year 10 and 12 pupils to supplement their remote education,

• alternative provision to begin some face-to-face support with year 10 and 11 pupils (as

How will risks to children, teachers and

• making sure that children and young people do not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) • promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach

• minimising contact through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the

environment as much as possible, such as changing the layout of classrooms

• reducing mixing between groups through timetable changes, such as staggered

as door handles, handrails, tabletops, play equipment and toys

(such as shielding due to health conditions).

now?

them to do so.

instructions.

- them to attend school? We strongly encourage children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence
- decides that they are at less risk at home or in their placement. For children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is

authority discretion, attendance is expected where this is appropriate.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). A

A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting.

Children and young people and staff in all settings are eligible for testing if they become

ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, as are members of their household. This will

enable children and young people to get back to childcare or education, and their

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary. Will education be provided as normal to

children and young people who are

and young people attending school in the way they see fit during this time.

attending?

academic year.

settings.

safely.

Schools and colleges should use their best endeavours to support pupils attending as well as those remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support. For pupils in year 10 and 12, and 16-19 learners in the first year of their course, we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face-to-face support for these year groups from 15 June. Remote education will remain the

predominant mode of education for these pupils, and schools and colleges will be able

How should my child travel to and from their

to have a quarter of the year 10 and year 12 pupils in at any one time. Schools and

starting their final year of study for GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications next

colleges should consider how to best use this time to support those pupils who are

We are also continuing to ask schools and colleges to work with their food providers to offer meals or food parcels for benefits-related free school meal pupils not attending school. Now that schools are opening more widely, school catering teams will be better placed to do this. The provision of food vouchers for those eligible under the benefits

criteria will also continue to be available where needed for those not attending.

Will childcare, schools and colleges keep

It is possible that some settings will make changes to their start and finish times or

introduce processes for drop-off and collection times to keep children and families safe.

Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers alongside any

expected to reopen their kitchens if they have closed and ensure staff are able to work

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their usual opening hours?

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