Search

Home > Parenting, childcare and children's services > Childcare and early years

> Local lockdowns: guidance for education and childcare settings Part of

**Education and childcare during coronavirus** 

Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Guidance and support

Department for Education

Guidance

## settings in Leicester and the affected parts of Leicestershire Updated 8 July 2020 In light of the local outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Leicester, the government has Contents

protect lives in the current context.

Guidance for educational and childcare

collaboration Confirm which children and

Local co-ordination and

young people should and

should not attend educational settings Attendance expectations Recording attendance in the school attendance register

Staffing and communication Infection prevention and control Getting to and from educational settings and travel supporting children's social care services

School meals Curriculum Holiday, after school clubs and other out of school settings

lockdown measures were in place. Fewer children and young people making the journey to educational settings, and fewer children and young people in these settings, will help to control the virus in these

taken action to control the spread of the virus in both Leicester and the affected

can, and the government has recommended against all but essential travel.

surrounding areas. People in this area have been asked to stay at home as much as they

From 2 July, we are therefore asking educational and early years settings to remain

open only for priority groups - children and young people who are vulnerable, and the

children of critical workers - as they did at the beginning of this outbreak when national

circumstances. The decision to ask educational settings to limit their operations has not been taken lightly. We appreciate the extraordinary work that all school and college $^2$  leaders, their early years colleagues and educational staff have done throughout this outbreak, and are keenly aware that a return to more limited school, early years and college provision

will be deeply frustrating as many children have returned since 1 June. We appreciate the impact these measures will have on parents and carers too, and the disruption they may face as a result of their child no longer being able to attend their school, college or nursery during the local lockdown. However, we consider these measures to be an

important part of our overall response if we are to control the spread of the virus and

This guidance sets out the key actions that schools, colleges and early years providers in Leicester and its surrounding areas should take to prepare for limiting attendance from 2 July 2020. We will work with the local authorities and individual nurseries, schools and colleges to support them follow the public health advice. These local measures will be kept under review, and will be reviewed in 2 weeks. This means that the affected schools will not open more widely to more year groups before they close for the summer holidays. For more information about the areas affected by the localised lockdown in Leicestershire, please refer to the <u>increased restrictions for Leicester and parts of</u> Leicestershire announcement on Leicestershire County Council's website, which

includes a PDF map of the areas where increased restrictions are in place. This document should be read alongside the relevant parts of the following guidance: • guidance on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings, specifically the sections on: • effective infection protection and control

 personal protective equipment requirements on shielding • guidance on <u>safe working in education</u>, <u>childcare and children's social care settings</u> • guidance on <u>critical workers</u>

• guidance for children's social care services

• guidance about <u>supporting vulnerable children and young people</u>

- Local co-ordination and collaboration We expect early years providers, schools, colleges, local authorities and trusts to work together to ensure that settings are supported to stay open for priority groups.
- Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities are responsible for working with education settings (including academies and the independent sector), using the critical worker list and the definition of vulnerable children and young people (set out below) to support early years providers, schools and colleges to ensure that there are enough

local territorial team will also offer support.

home until further notice.

up to date.

young person will no longer be able to attend.

<u>people</u> are currently defined as children and young people who:

- places for priority groups. Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities are also responsible for monitoring
- demand and capacity. This may involve working with educational settings to provide places in alternative settings if necessary, and supporting residential special schools, alternative provision and other special settings to remain open, wherever possible.

Confirm which children and young people should and should not attend educational settings We are asking early years providers, schools and colleges in Leicester and the affected parts of Leicestershire to remain open only for priority groups - children of critical workers and all vulnerable children and young people.

All other pupils who are not considered vulnerable, or are not the children of critical

opening measures since 1 June, should not attend their settings and should remain at

Early years providers, schools and colleges should speak with parents and carers to

discuss any changes in the attendance of their children, especially where a child or

For the purpose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, vulnerable children and young

are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including

children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-

workers, including those who have been welcomed back to school as part of wider

If a setting is unable to open for children in priority groups, local authorities, schools,

and trusts should work collaboratively to agree the most appropriate solution locally.

Regional schools commissioners (RSCs) can support these conversations, and those

collaboratively with these local partners to agree appropriate solutions and the ESFA's

between local authorities where necessary. We also expect colleges to work

## after child • have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment, carried out with educational providers and parents, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment • have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who are therefore in need

of continued education provision - this might include children on the edge of

carers and others at the provider and local authority's discretion

**Attendance expectations** 

receiving support from children's social care services, adopted children, those at risk

of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'), those who are young

Education settings should work together with parents and other local partners where

relevant - including local authorities and social workers - to identify these vulnerable

school or colleges and to ensure for children with EHC plans that risk assessments are

In circumstances where a parent or carer does not want to bring a vulnerable child to an

children and decide whether they should continue to attend early years provision,

educational setting, the social worker and educational setting should explore the reasons for this directly with the parent or carer, and follow the relevant guidance for vulnerable children.

For the period of this local outbreak, we have the same expectations on attendance as

were applied during full national lockdown in England between 23 March and 1 June,

when early years, schools and colleges remained open only for priority children.

For children of critical workers It is not compulsory to take up the place made available for their child. Early years providers, schools and colleges should speak with parents to discuss what provision is needed as many parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home safely and some children of critical workers may need to remain at home for shielding or health reasons. Read the guidance on shielding.

For vulnerable children and young people who have a social worker, or those who are

authority, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically

vulnerable. For those who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is

educational settings and parents/carers, that their needs can be as safely or more safely

deemed otherwise vulnerable by their early years provider, school, college or local

expected where it is determined, <u>following a risk assessment</u> in consultation with

## These expectations apply across all education settings, including early years, schools and colleges. No one should attend nursery, school or college if they have symptoms of coronavirus

attendance register

schools should use the following codes:

19)

area.

performed by a parent or carer.

workers.

Curriculum

(COVID-19) or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

Recording attendance in the school

Schools in the Leicester and Leicestershire area should continue to submit the

met in their setting.

For vulnerable children and young people

and how many children and staff are in school. Schools should also continue to record attendance in their usual attendance register and use the following coding during the local lockdown: • Where a school is closed to all pupils for a session, schools should record a # code for all pupils (temporarily, code # should be used only for full closure). Where a school is open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers,

all pupils who are not eligible or expected to attend a session should be recorded

whose parents have indicated they will not attend a given session. Temporarily,

code X can be used for compulsory school age children – usually it is only used

• vulnerable children who are shielding, self isolating, or have an education, health

safely met in school, should be recorded as code Y (unable to attend due to

and care plan (EHCP), and whose risk assessment says that their needs cannot be

exceptional circumstances). Temporarily, code Y can be used where a pupil is not

attending school due to following government guidance on coronavirus (COVID-

where a vulnerable child does not attend school for any other reason they should

be recorded as absent (but all absence at this time should be authorised)— where

no other authorised absence code is appropriate they should be recorded as code

when non-compulsory school age children are not expected to attend.

as code X (not required to be in school). This includes children of critical workers

Educational Setting Status form via the online portal to report whether they are open

During this period of temporary restriction, the number of teachers and school staff needed will vary between education settings. Early years providers, schools and colleges should continue make an assessment of the capacity required as they have been doing through the period of national closures and wider opening, and where in

doubt, discuss their needs with the local authority or trust when making decisions.

Where staff are clinically vulnerable, or clinically extremely vulnerable, early years,

school and college leaders and settings should continue to follow the advice set out in

Local settings should also note that the relaxation of shielding measures, due to take

effect nationally on the 6 July, will not now take place in Leicester and the surrounding

implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. This guidance

sets out a hierarchy of controls including regular handwashing, good hygiene, frequent

cleaning and use of small, distinct groups, that when implemented, create an inherently

safer system, where the risk of transmission and infection is substantially reduced.

<u>Tests can be booked online</u> or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without

involved in education or childcare. Children aged 11 and under must have the test

government has deployed four mobile testing units, offered extra capacity at the

regional test site and has provided thousands of home testing kits to households.

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.

access to internet. Essential workers have priority access to testing including anyone

To help prevent the further spread of the virus in Leicester and the surrounding area, the

services As part of these local restrictions, the government has advised against all non-essential travel to, from and within Leicester and affected parts of Leicestershire. Critical workers, including education staff (nursery staff, teachers, and social workers) are permitted to travel into/out of Leicester and the affected parts of Leicestershire to go to their jobs, in order to maintain provision for vulnerable children/children of critical

Vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers are also

permitted to travel into/out of Leicester and affected parts of Leicestershire for

education/care or, in case of vulnerable children, to attend meeting with social

Vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers attending school

or college during this period should be encouraged to walk or cycle wherever possible

and avoid public transport. If public transport is used by children and young people or

No other children and young people should travel in and out of the restricted area to

attend education/care – for example, if you are a child or young person (other than a

staff, then those over the age of 11 are required to wear a face covering whilst travelling.

workers/family courts. This includes parents taking children to school.

school will be penalised if they are unable to offer a broad and balanced curriculum during this period. This continues to be the case for the summer term nationally, and for settings in Leicester that are once again limiting their attendance to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Curriculum guidance relating to the next academic

outbreak and should also only be open to priority children. In Leicester, and the affected surrounding areas, out of school settings and holiday

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to provide the support, activities and education that they see fit. We have emphasised the importance of ensuring that children of critical workers and vulnerable children are supervised and properly cared for in educational settings and have clarified that no year will be published shortly.

school settings Nationally, providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition, and other out-of-school provision for children, can operate from 4 July with safety measures in place. Please refer to guidance on protective measures for holiday, after school clubs and other out of school settings for more information. In Leicester, and the affected surrounding areas, this guidance will only apply to those providers caring for children over the age of 5 who are registered with Ofsted on either

the compulsory or voluntary childcare register. In addition, this provision should only be

open to priority children. 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)

Holiday, after school clubs and other out of

education providers. 🗠 <u>Is there anything wrong with this page?</u> <u>No</u>

Getting to and from educational settings and travel supporting children's social care

vulnerable child or child of a critical worker) that lives in Leicester but attends school or college outside the affected area, you must stay at home. Likewise, if you live outside Leicester and travel into the city or the affected parts of Leicestershire for education or childcare, you must stay at home. School meals

## resources made available by the <u>Oak National Academy</u> • BBC Bitesize Early years settings can direct parents to: • the Department for Education's <a href="Hungry Little Minds">Hungry Little Minds</a> campaign • the BBC's <u>Tiny Happy People</u> • the National Literacy Trust's Family Zone

The Department for Education has also published further guidance on <a href="https://example.com/how-to-help">how-to-help</a>

children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home during coronavirus (COVID-19).

• a list of quality assured online resources for home education

clubs that are not Ofsted registered should only operate where they can safely offer provision outside, in a group of up to 6 people (including staff members), while observing social distancing guidelines, and keeping at least 2 metres apart. These settings should remain closed for indoor provision for the time being.

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As has been the case throughout this outbreak, early years, school and college leaders should discuss the impact of these local measures with their staff, some of whom may be anxious and may value the opportunity for discussion and reassurance.

C (leave of absence authorised by the school).

Staffing and communication

the guidance on implementing protective measures.

Infection prevention and control

Schools, nurseries and colleges should continue to follow the guidance on

We want to support schools and parents to ensure children and young people's education can continue remotely. Schools should continue to consult, as appropriate, section 16 of the guidance for schools during the coronavirus outbreak which sets out the support that schools and parents can access to manage the huge challenge of teaching remotely. This includes: • a list of <u>remote learning case studies</u>

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While these local measures are in place in Leicester, schools should continue to follow the guidance on supporting children eligible for free schools meals as well as the guidance on the Summer Food Fund. Throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we have given schools the flexibility

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1. Throughout this document, the term educational settings is used to refer to a range of educational institutions, including nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges and other post-16 providers. 2. Where this document makes reference to college/s we are referring to all further

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