TO GOV. UK Search **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** Guidance and support Home > Education, training and skills

> Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Part of

children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus

Contents

Introduction

Department for Education Guidance Guidance for parents and carers of

**Education and childcare during coronavirus** 

(COVID-19) outbreak

position on group sizes

Introduction

• after-school clubs

holiday clubs

• tuition

Added a question on live performances

Q5. Can I attend an out-ofschool setting to watch my child in a live performance? Annex A: Choosing a suitable provider

Main changes to previous

Questions and answers

Updated 20 August 2020

community activities • other out-of-school settings for children and young people aged 5 and over during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

This guidance is for parents and carers and covers changes to:

- These settings provide enriching activities that give children the opportunity to socialise with others outside their household and promote their wellbeing. We
  - also recognise the importance of these settings in providing additional childcare options to parents and carers, particularly those with younger children, who may need to return to or continue to work during the school holidays.

Main changes to previous guidance

Included a change to the protective measures which will be effective from

the point at which all pupils return to school in the autumn, making clear the

We have extended its applicability into the autumn school term

any risk of infection that they may face. The risk can be minimised for children of all ages by ensuring that you are sending them to a provider that has coronavirus (COVID-19) protective measures in place, and taking practical steps to reduce the risk of your child coming in close contact with someone

settings consistently, and consider carefully the number of settings they attend overall. We have released guidance for providers to help them put in place protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. While some providers

send your child to a particular setting.

tuition and learning centres, many types of extracurricular clubs (e.g. dance classes, gymnastics training, football coaching), uniformed youth organisations (e.g. Scouts, Guides and cadet forces), supplementary schools,

in premises legally able to be open.

your area.

such as age of the children in attendance, size of the premises or the type of

activity. This means that when your child attends the first session they should be placed in a particular group or class of children and they should remain in that group for future sessions as far as possible. When state schools in your local area reopen for all pupils in autumn term 2020, we are advising providers to keep children in, as far as possible, consistent groups of no more than 15 children (i.e. with the same children each time wherever possible), and at least one staff member. Multiple groups of 15

infection and transmission of the virus.

Very few children are now known to be clinically extremely vulnerable. The guidance for these groups is changing as the number of cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) declines in our communities. Read the latest guidance. These children are able to attend out-of-school settings, however if parents of children with significant risk factors are concerned, we recommend they discuss their concerns with the provider, to receive reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk.

Anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, such as a raised

confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and get a test.

the size and layout of their premises, and whether the activity is being held indoors or outdoors. The key measures that every setting should have in place are: minimising contact with staff, children and young people, and other individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do not attend their setting. This also applies if a member of

and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

products, such as detergent or bleach

children in small consistent groups

or lunch to the setting.

guidance.

use public transport

• visit the urgent care centre

visit the GP

visit a pharmacy

• increased frequency of cleaning of toilets and washrooms

coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms? If your child becomes unwell with a new, persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste of smell (anosmia), they must stay at home and you should follow the COVID-19:

guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

If your child becomes unwell while at a setting, the provider should call you

they will be kept separately from others by a distance of at least 2 metres,

When you collect your child you should take them straight home, do not:

ideally in a well-ventilated room with appropriate adult supervision.

immediately to come and collect them. While your child is awaiting collection

Q3. What should I do if my child is displaying

If your child tests positive, NHS Test and Trace will speak directly to those that have been in contact with your child to offer advice. This advice may be that the rest of their class or group within the setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Household members should also self-isolate at

until they are recovered.

they have put in place to minimise the risk to parents, children and staff in their setting by reducing the risk of transmission of the virus. Some protective measures might limit parent and carer attendance. These may include:

distancing markers

also keep an accurate record of when and where your child attends out-ofschool settings to help NHS Test and Trace identify people who may have been

check the local restrictions page to see if any such restrictions are in place in your area. Ahead of attending, you should check with the provider organising the live performance what steps have been taken to mitigate the risk of transmission. The protective measures providers put in place should be in line with those outlined in the performing arts guidance, for example limiting the size of the audience to allow social distancing to be maintained and only operating in a

venue with adequate ventilation.

child, but this is not an exhaustive list.

All providers:

example, open windows)

performance?

• a parental consent form, which asks for medical information and emergency contact details, is needed before the child attends for the first time a complaints process is in place

aware of them

The UK has left the EU

Citizenship and living in the UK Money and tax Passports, travel and living abroad Visas and immigration Research and statistics Working, jobs and pensions Policy papers and consultations Transparency and freedom of information releases

© Crown copyright

Scientific advice suggests that there is a moderate to high degree of confidence that the susceptibility to clinical disease of younger children (typically until they become teenagers) is generally lower than for adults. However, it remains important that protective measures are put in place to help reduce the risk of transmission. For older children, there is not enough evidence yet to determine whether susceptibility to disease is different to adults. Out-of-school settings may open to children and young people of all ages, and if you decide that your older child will attend an out-of-school setting you should still consider how to minimise

> who has the virus, such as encouraging your child to walk or cycle to the setting, getting dropped off by a member of your household in your private car rather than taking public transport. You should not car share with anyone outside your household (or bubble). You should discourage your children from mixing with different peer groups outside of the specific activity or group setting. As these settings reopen, it is crucial that we are minimising the risk of transmission of the virus due to increased mixing between different groups of

children. For this reason, you should consider sending your child to the same

will be Ofsted registered, not all will be, and there is no single responsible body with complete oversight of these settings, or the quality and safety of their provision. With this in mind, you will want to check with the provider that they

have put in place protective measures to reduce the risk of infection before you **Questions and answers** 

Q1. What activities and out-of-school clubs can my Providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children can now operate with

private language schools and religious settings offering education (for example

madrassahs, yeshivas, and Sunday schools), provided they are only operating

However, if you live in an area that is experiencing a local coronavirus (COVID-

consult the <u>local restrictions page</u> to see if any such restrictions are in place in

As more settings reopen, it is important that we continue to put in place ways

to minimise the transmission risks of the virus. This means that you should

consider sending your child to the same setting consistently, and consider

carefully the number of settings they attend overall, in order to prevent your

19) outbreak, different local restrictions may have been imposed. Please

child attend? protective measures in place. Children are able to attend settings such as

child from mixing with multiple different groups of children. We are recommending that providers, as far as possible, keep children in small groups of no more than 15 children with the same children each time wherever possible (ie do not mix groups unless absolutely necessary) and at least one staff member, depending on the type of provision or size of the group. Group sizes may need to be smaller than 15 children depending on a number of factors

Where it is possible to do so, providers should also try to work with you and the schools or early years settings which your child attends to ensure, as far as possible, your child can be kept in a group with other children from the same bubble they are in during the school day. This will minimise the amount of mixing between different groups of children outside of school, and therefore the risk of infection. The government will keep group sizes under review. You are also advised to choose settings that are local to you. Where possible, parents, carers and children are encouraged to walk or cycle to the setting rather than taking public transport (particularly during peak times). You should not car share with anyone outside your household (or bubble).

temperature, a new persistent cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell

or taste, should stay at home. They should not attend an out-of-school setting

and should follow Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or

plus staff can use the same shared space, if that is necessary, with distancing

between the groups. Where this is the case the other protective measures

within this guidance will be even more important to minimise the risk of

We are aware that some parents and carers may look to holiday clubs and outof-school settings to offer respite childcare during the summer for children with special educational needs or with an education, health and care plan (EHCP). We have asked providers to ensure that making provision available and accessible to these children, as far as possible, remains a priority in these current circumstances.

Q2. The holiday club that my child attends has

place?

contacted me to say that they are reopening. What

protective measures should I expect them to have in

The government has released <u>protective measures guidance</u> to help providers

of out-of-school settings put measures in place to reduce the risk of infection

The type of protective measures specific providers put in place will depend on

their individual circumstances, such as the type of the activity they offer (for

example whether children will be moving around rather than sitting at desks),

their family has symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19);

or if they have been advised individually by NHS Test and Trace to isolate at

home because they are the contact of a case that does not live in the same

house. • encouraging staff and children attending to clean their hands more often than usual, including before and after activities and before and after using toilet/washroom facilities ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often than usual using standard

minimising contact and mixing between groups of children by altering the

Before sending your child to a setting, you will want to ask providers what

environment to allow for social distancing between children and keeping

measures have been put in place to keep children, staff members and parents

or carers safe, and any practicalities you need to be aware of such as collection

and drop-off times and whether your child should bring their own water bottle

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. If your child has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), a high temperature, new and persistent cough or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or

smell (anosmia), however mild, they should self-isolate for at least 10 days from

when the symptoms started. Or if they are not experiencing symptoms but have

tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they should self-isolate for at least

If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop

This only applies to those who begin their isolation on or after 30 July.

You should arrange a test for them as soon as possible to see if they have

119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. You and other fellow

coronavirus (COVID-19). You can do this by visiting NHS.UK or contact NHS

If your child tests negative, they can usually return to the setting and the fellow

household members can end their self-isolation subject to confirmation from

If your child tests negative but is unwell, they should not return to the setting

home. See the current stay at home: guidance for households with possible or

Q4. Can I attend an out-of-school setting to supervise

Out-of-school settings providers may not be able to accommodate parents and

confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection for more information.

symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation

visit a hospital - (unless unless the child is seriously unwell)

10 days starting from the day the test was taken.

period from the day they develop symptoms.

household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

local health protection professionals.

carers being present during a session due to guidelines on group sizes and social distancing. If parents can be accommodated, the available spaces should be prioritised for children with special care needs. Providers should be able to clearly communicate what protective measures

my child during a session?

form to complete when enrolling children in a setting so they have at least one emergency contact number for each child and are aware of any medical conditions or allergies. However, it is particularly important during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that you ensure the provider has your most up-to-date contact details in case of an emergency, such as your child falling ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while attending the setting. You should

a limit of one parent attending the setting to drop off a child

allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so

• protocols for minimising adult to adult contact, such as using physical

It is good practice for providers to give parents and carers a parental consent

in contact with your child should they test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

satisfy yourself that a provider has put protective measures in place to reduce

If you are unable to supervise your child during a session, you will want to

the risk of transmission of the virus, as well as having adequate health and

safety and child protection procedures. We have included checklists to

support you when choosing a setting for your child in Annex A, below.

Q5. Can I attend an out-of-school

setting to watch my child in a live

Live performances are currently permitted but only where strict coronavirus

for the performers, the audience and anyone supporting the performance.

(COVID-19) security measures are able to be implemented safely. This includes

However, if you live in an area that is experiencing a local coronavirus (COVID-

19) outbreak, different local restrictions may have been imposed. You should

Annex A: Choosing a suitable provider

The information below provides some examples of positive signs to look out for

to help you make good choices when choosing an out-of-school setting for your

• health and safety has been considered, specifically coronavirus (COVID-19)

a written policy. Small and self-employed providers do not need to have a

written policy but should be aware of the risks and how to reduce them

• the environment appears safe (it is a well-maintained, clean building with a

clear exit route in case of emergencies and a first aid kit available). The

• soap or hand sanitiser is readily available for staff, children and parents or

carers to clean their hands. The setting may also have posters promoting

provider knows what to do in the event of a fire or emergency

• rooms are well-ventilated, either by a ventilation unit or naturally (for

protective measures. Providers with more than 5 staff members should have

frequent handwashing or the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach • the setting is cleaned frequently (for example, cleaning checklists in toilets are visible and completed regularly) use of toilets and changing rooms is managed to prevent overcrowding • children attending the setting are in small, consistent groups of no more

social distancing is promoted, through physical markers for instance

the provider has relevant training to deal with child protection and

how children can report concerns and how the provider will make parents

setting has introduced during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

<u>Is there anything wrong with this page?</u>

**Departments and policy** 

How government works

safeguarding issues (for example abuse and neglect)

than 15 children and one or two staff members

an appointed person is responsible for first aid

 staff members and volunteers have relevant training to deal with child protection issues such as physical, emotional or sexual abuse • staff and volunteers have completed relevant qualifications and checks (for example pre-employment references, DBS checks and so on)

Check the new rules for January 2021

**Employing people Departments Environment and countryside** Worldwide Housing and local services <u>Services</u> **Guidance and regulation** News and communications

Help Privacy Cookies Contact Accessibility statement Terms and conditions Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg Built by the Government Digital Service All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated

• a child protection policy can be given to parents on request. This should say there is an appointed safeguarding lead **Providers with staff members:**  staff members and volunteers are aware of the new safety measures the Is this page useful? Yes Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Benefits** 

Business and self-employed

**Childcare and parenting** 

Crime, justice and the law

Disabled people

**Driving and transport** 

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support Services and information **Education and learning** Births, deaths, marriages and care

<u>No</u>