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**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** | Guidance and support

**Education and childcare during coronavirus** 

Department for Education

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

Guidance

Guidance for parents and carers of

children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Contents Main changes to previous Introduction

Reopening of after-school

clubs and out-of-school

activities for children

• added content on face coverings to the live performances section Choosing after-school clubs and out-of-school activities for your child Who can attend after-school clubs and out-of-school Introduction activities Children with health

Updated 28 September 2020

This guidance is for parents and carers and covers changes to: concerns Protective measures in • after-school clubs after-school clubs and outof-school activities holiday clubs Bubbles and group sizes in tuition out-of-school clubs and

• community activities

other out-of-school activities children's dance, music and drama

suitable provider

Annex A: Choosing a

• other out-of-school settings for children and young people aged 5 and over during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic These settings provide enriching activities that give children the opportunity to socialise with others outside their household and promote their wellbeing. We

Main changes to previous guidance

• removed references to summer holidays now that all schools have reopened

Search

also recognise the importance of these settings in providing additional

We have updated this guidance as follows:

for the autumn term

- childcare options to parents and carers, particularly those with younger children.
- Reopening of after-school clubs and out-of-school activities for children

school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children can now operate with protective measures in place, see the <u>protective measures</u> guidance. Providing they are only operating in premises legally able to open, children are able to attend settings such as: tuition and learning centres

## • supplementary schools • private language schools • religious settings offering education (for example madrassahs, yeshivas,

19) outbreak, different local restrictions may have been imposed. Please consult the local restrictions page to see if any such restrictions are in place in

- school activities for your child 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
- You should also keep an accurate record of when and where your child attends out-of-school settings to help NHS Test and Trace identify people who may have been in contact with your child should they test positive for coronavirus

We have released <u>protective measures guidance</u> for providers to help them put in place protective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. While some providers 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, such as

those described in this guidance, to reduce the risk of infection before you

out-of-school activities Out-of-school settings may open to all children and young people up to 18 years

Who can attend after-school clubs and

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 • taking practical steps to reduce the risk of your child coming in close

contact with someone who has the virus, such as encouraging your child to

household in your private car rather than taking public transport. You should

• discouraging your child from mixing with different peer groups outside of the

Very few children are now known to be clinically extremely vulnerable. Read the

walk or cycle to the setting, getting dropped off by a member of your

not car share with anyone outside your household (or bubble)

Children with health concerns

will attend an out-of-school setting you should still consider how to minimise

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. We are aware that some parents and carers may look to holiday clubs and outof-school settings to offer respite childcare for children with special

educational needs or with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We

to these children, as far as possible, remains a priority in these current

have asked providers to ensure that making provision available and accessible

Protective measures in after-school clubs and out-of-school activities The government has released protective measures guidance to help providers of out-of-school settings put measures in place to reduce the risk of infection

19) symptoms do not attend their setting. This also applies if a member of their family has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they have been advised individually by <u>NHS Test and Trace</u> 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

ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it'

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

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

individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus (COVID-

school clubs and activities Where it is possible to do so, providers should try to work with you and the schools or early years settings which your child attends to ensure, as far as

Bubbles and group sizes in out-of-

their school day bubble, or from a different school. If providers need to do this we are recommending that they, as far as possible, keep children in small groups of no more than 15 children with the same children each time wherever possible (that is, do not mix groups unless

bubble), providers may need to group children with other children from outside

absolutely necessary) and at least one staff member, depending on the type of

children depending on factors such as age of the children in attendance, size of

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

provision or size of the group. Group sizes may need to be smaller than 15

the same school or early years setting as other children in the setting and group them together if appropriate. Multiple groups of 15 plus staff can use the same shared space, if that is necessary, with distancing between the groups.

What to do if your child is displaying

coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

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

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

seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of 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 the Stay at home: guidance for households with

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,

collect your child you should take them straight home; do not use public

transport; do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital

unless the child is seriously unwell. In an emergency, call 999 if they are

Guidance on self-isolation can be found here: NHS - when to self-isolate and

what to do or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

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

clubs, tuition and other out-of-school

Parents and carers should not be allowed into the setting unless this is

children should be dropped off and collected at the door if possible.

essential (for example, where children may have special care needs), and

emergency contact number for each child and are aware of any medical

conditions or allergies. However, it is particularly important during the

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

form to complete when enrolling children in a setting so they have at least one

coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that you ensure the provider has your most

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

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

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. If you are unable to supervise your child during a session, you will want to satisfy yourself that a provider has put protective measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, as well as having adequate health and safety and child protection procedures. At Annex A we have included checklists to support you when choosing a setting for your child.

Ahead of attending, you should check with the provider organising the live

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

In England, you must wear a face covering in entertainment venues, including

theatres and concert halls. You must also wear a face covering by law in some

you are not able to wear one, for example, because of your age or a health

condition. You should follow the relevant government guidance on face

other public places unless you have a reasonable excuse for not wearing one or

coverings when attending an out-of-school setting to watch your child in a live

Annex A: Choosing a suitable provider

This information 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

performance what steps have been taken to mitigate the risk of transmission.

Things to look for: • health and safety has been considered, specifically coronavirus (COVID-19) protective measures. Providers with more than 5 staff members should have 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

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

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

- a complaints process is in place **Providers with staff members** 
  - The UK has left the EU

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activities What to do if your child is displaying coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms Parent attendance at extracurricular clubs, tuition and Live performances of

Providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, breakfast and after-

• extracurricular clubs (for example, dance classes, gymnastics training, football coaching) • uniformed youth organisations (for example, Scouts, Guides and cadet forces)

Sunday schools)

However, if you live in an area that is experiencing a local coronavirus (COVIDyour area. Choosing after-school clubs and out-of-

settings consistently, and consider carefully the number of settings they attend overall. (COVID-19).

send your child to a particular setting.

any risk of infection that they may face.

specific activity or group setting

old. 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. If you decide that your older child

latest guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable. These children are able to attend out-of-school settings, however if parents of

circumstances.

and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). 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), 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

approach • cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often than usual using standard products, such as detergent or bleach • increased frequency of cleaning of toilets and washrooms minimising contact and mixing between groups of children by altering the environment to allow for social distancing between children and keeping children in the same bubbles that they are in during the school day, or otherwise in small consistent groups

or food to the setting.

toilet/washroom facilities

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. Where it is not possible or it is impractical for providers to group children in the same bubbles as they are in during the school day (for example, if there are only one or two children attending the provision from the same school or school day

for future sessions as far as possible. Providers will need to review these groups to minimise the amount of 'mixing' (that is, the number of different people each child comes into contact with). For example, when new children register for the club or activity, the provider may wish to first determine whether they attend

the premises or the type of activity.

local health protection professionals. If your child tests negative but is unwell, they should not return to the setting until they are recovered. 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. Parent attendance at extra-curricular

activities

**All providers** clear exit route in case of emergencies and a first aid kit available). The provider knows what to do in the event of a fire or emergency

performance.

Things to look for: staff members and volunteers are aware of the new safety measures the setting has introduced during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak 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)

**Education and learning Employing people** 

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support Services and information

Live performances of children's dance, music and drama Live performances are currently permitted but only where strict coronavirus (COVID-19) security measures are able to be implemented safely. This includes for the performers, the audience and anyone supporting the performance. 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 check the <u>local restrictions page</u> to see if any such restrictions are in place in your area.

venue with adequate ventilation.

child, but this is not an exhaustive list.

example, open windows)

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 school bubbles or small, consistent groups of no more than 15 children and one or two staff members social distancing is promoted, through physical markers for instance an appointed person is responsible for first aid the provider has relevant training to deal with child protection and safeguarding issues (for example abuse and neglect) • a child protection policy can be given to parents on request. This should say how children can report concerns and how the provider will make parents

aware of them there is an appointed safeguarding lead • a parental consent form, which asks for medical information and emergency contact details, is needed before the child attends for the first time

Births, deaths, marriages and care

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** 

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