

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

10 June 1921 to 9 April 2021

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 Education & Skills Funding Agency

Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19) mass testing funding for schools and colleges: spring 2021 payment technical note

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1. Introduction

This guidance provides additional information on the allocations to be paid to schools and colleges to support the costs associated with the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) National Testing Programme](#).

2. Conditions of grant funding

Information on the scope, eligibility and terms of funding for the initial roll-out of rapid testing (from 4 January 2021 until 5 March 2021) is available in the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) National Testing Programme: conditions of grant](#).

3. Spring 2021 Payment

The spring 2021 single payment will relate to testing for the period of:

- 4 January 2021 to February half term
- February half term to 5 March 2021

Information on how this will be paid to schools and colleges is in the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) National Testing Programme: conditions of grant](#).

4. Allocations

We'll base allocations on the number of bays/desks calculated as needed to deliver the number of tests completed (measured by the number of test results recorded on the school or college's individual account on the Test Site Results service).

We'll calculate the allocation for staff testing and pupil testing separately. An institution's total allocation will be the sum of these calculated funding amounts.

For pupil testing we have calculated the number of bays required for the spring 2021 payment periods as follows:

- total pupil tests divided by 396 (6 days multiplied by 6 hours multiplied by 11 tests an hour) rounded up to the next whole bay

For staff testing we have calculated the number of bays required for the spring 2021 payment periods as follows:

- total staff tests divided by 363 (32 days multiplied by 1.5 hours multiplied by 11 tests an hour) rounded up to the next whole bay

We'll pay eligible institutions in and close to London an additional weighting for workforce costs.

We'll calculate this in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's general labour market rates.

For institutions receiving Medacs support for administered swabbing requirements, the cost of this Medacs support will be deducted from that institution's allocation/payment by recalculating the allocation with the Medacs-funded post removed. For the spring 2021 payment there were no institutions that received Medac support.

We've accounted for different staffing levels needed for rapid one-off testing on return of pupils and students in special schools, Special post-16 institutions, alternative provision academies and pupil referral units. We've assumed that:

- these settings will need a higher number of test assistants to support pupils who cannot self-administer tests
- test assistants will be paid at a higher hourly rate to reflect the likelihood of additional qualifications or experience

For the spring 2021 payment, an institution's establishment type and local authority location will reflect their status as of the 01 April 2021.

It's important for us to be able to identify a school or college's Unique Reference Number (URN) from their Test Site Results service data to calculate allocations correctly.

Allocation funding amounts for pupil and staff testing bays can be found in table 1 and table 2 of the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) mass testing funding for schools and colleges allocation funding amounts](#).

5. Institutions who have delivered a small number of staff or pupil tests

We know that some institutions have returned a small number of staff or pupil tests. We recognise that there will still be costs associated with this testing, but that this cost will be lower than running a bay full-time.

We've estimated that institutions who have returned less than 22 tests during the periods covered in the spring 2021 payment will have required less than 1 hour of testing on 2 separate days.

Therefore, institutions that have delivered less than 22 staff or pupil tests will receive a minimum allocation amount. This minimum threshold criteria will be applied separately to staff and pupil testing totals. If an institution has both staff and pupil testing totals less than 22, then they will receive the minimum allocation amount twice, once for their staff testing and once for their pupil testing.

Institutions who have not returned any staff tests will not receive any allocation for staff testing. However, they'll receive funding for any pupil tests delivered. Likewise, institutions that have not delivered any pupil tests will not receive a pupil test allocation but will receive funding for their staff testing.

Minimum allocation amounts for pupil and staff testing bays can be found in table 1 and table 2 of the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) mass testing funding for schools and colleges allocation funding amounts](#).

6. Unregistered tests

There are test results in the Test Site Results service data where the test itself has either not been registered by an institution or has been registered incorrectly. Where we can identify the institution that the test result is recorded against, we've included these unregistered tests when calculating an institution's allocation.

As unregistered tests have no registration information associated with them, we're unable to distinguish if they were a staff or pupil test. Since the majority of tests during the spring 2021 payment periods were staff tests, we have assumed that the unregistered tests are also staff tests. The total number of unregistered tests for an institution will be included in the calculation to determine their staff testing allocation.

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