

The content of today's email is relevant for all settings.

What Step 4 changes mean for education and childcare settings

As most restrictions across all parts of society are relaxed from Monday 19 July, we want to keep schools, colleges and early years settings informed on what Step 4 changes mean. To help with this, we have recorded a [webinar](#) which provides information on the key changes to COVID-19 measures such as 'bubbles', contact tracing, face coverings, self-isolation and testing, in addition to providing answers to some frequently asked questions.

Changes to contact tracing for schools, colleges and nurseries from Monday 19 July

From Monday 19 July, schools, colleges and nurseries will no longer carry out routine contact tracing. From this point onwards, close contacts will be identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

In response to feedback from stakeholders, we have produced guidance, some frequently asked questions and answers and a template letter for settings to send to parents, pupils and students on changes to contact tracing of close contacts. These can all be found on the document sharing platforms for [primary and early](#)

[years](#), [secondary schools](#), [further education and higher education](#) and [children's social care](#).

COVID-19 LFD test kit inventory survey for secondary schools and colleges

Secondary schools and colleges are invited to participate in a short [test kit inventory survey](#). This will help us better understand total stock levels of home self-test kits, as well as your availability over summer to receive deliveries so that we can ensure you are ready to continue home testing in the autumn term. This information will help forecast test kit demand for continued regular home testing for pupils and staff until the end of September, when asymptomatic testing will be reviewed in schools and colleges. Please note that we do not expect staff to attend settings for the sole purpose of receiving test kit deliveries. Your answers do not impact your ability to order test kits using the ordering website.

The survey will only take you a few minutes and we very much welcome your participation by completing the [test kit inventory survey](#) by Tuesday 20 July.

For any queries about this survey, please contact the DfE helpdesk on 0800 046 8687 (8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday).

Summer school sign-up and funding confirmation

Thank you to those schools who completed the summer school confirmation form.

All schools who have confirmed their summer school programmes can now access their updated [funding allocations](#).

These are based on the information provided in the confirmation form.

In September, schools will be required to complete a claim form to:

- confirm that the summer school took place
- set out the total number of 'pupil days' offered
- confirm the total number of 'pupil days' attended

Schools will only claim actual costs up to the maximum of their allocation. As part of the claim form, schools will also be asked to provide unique pupil numbers (UPNs). Schools may choose to request this from their feeder primary schools earlier if required.

Please see the [guidance on summer schools](#) and the [webinar](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact us at learning.recovery@education.gov.uk.

Appeals for 2021 qualifications for secondary schools and colleges

Exceptionally for this year, we are providing additional funding to centres for teachers to process priority appeals. Centres will be eligible for £75 for each priority centre review they conduct. The funding is available to state funded centres and those entering private candidates.

A claims process will open in the autumn term to enable centres to claim this funding. Centres should retain their UKPRN and centre number, along with the student's 4-digit candidate number, subject (specification) code, and UCAS PID, to enable them to claim this funding.

Priority appeals are for students applying to higher education who did not attain the grades required to meet the conditions of their accepted firm choice offer, and who wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result. Centres should make every effort to check that the candidate's appeal is a priority appeal at the point of conducting a centre review (for example by checking the student's offer conditions on the UCAS Advisor Portal).

This week, we also published guidance on the [exam support service](#) for the autumn series. This will provide funding for essential additional costs relating to invigilation, additional exam space, and fees. The claims process for this will also open in the autumn term. Details of what is needed to claim are included in the guidance.

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)

- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

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