

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

COVID-19 guidance now published in HTML

Further to the guidance listed in yesterday's email, the following pieces of guidance have now also been converted from PDF to HTML, making them more accessible and easier to navigate and read:

- [Further education COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [Higher education COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [COVID-19: assessment processes for selective school admissions July 2021](#)

COVID-19 email over the summer holidays

From the week commencing Monday 26 July, the Department for Education's COVID-19 email will reduce in frequency to once a week on a Wednesday throughout the summer holidays unless there are any significant announcements or changes to guidance. This is in response to your feedback from our recent survey.

COVID-19 test kit delivery schedules for asymptomatic test sites (ATS) in secondary schools and colleges

The delivery schedule for the ATS on-site test kit deliveries and PPE for the week commencing Monday 19 July is now available

on the [secondary schools and colleges document sharing platform](#). Please check the published delivery schedule prior to contacting the helpline in relation to expected timescales for receipt of deliveries. Please wait for 48 hours after a scheduled delivery date before contacting the helpline.

Introduction of Orient Gene self-test kits for at-home testing in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries

From this week, NHS Test and Trace is introducing a new type of lateral flow device (LFD) called Orient Gene for at-home testing of staff in PVI nurseries. These tests involve double nasal swabbing only – a throat sample is not needed. The Orient Gene devices return a positive or negative result in under 30 minutes.

Settings should continue to use any remaining Innova self-test kit stock and only order additional test kits through the [online reordering system](#) when stocks start to run low. Orient Gene test kits for at-home testing are supplied in boxes of 7 and enable testing for 3.5 weeks. Updated guidance on the introduction of the new Orient Gene test kit has been uploaded to the [early years and primary school document sharing platform](#).

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

We invited secondary schools and colleges to participate in a short [test kit inventory survey](#). This survey 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 closes at 23:59 today (Tuesday 20 July) and takes just a couple of minutes to complete. We welcome your participation.

For any queries about this survey, please contact the DfE COVID-19 helpdesk on 0800 046 8687. Lines are open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

Support those pupils most affected by the pandemic by considering a return to teaching

Do you know any former or retired teachers who are thinking of returning to the classroom? If so, now could be a good time to help make a difference by supporting education recovery.

After a period of huge disruption for so many pupils during the pandemic, we need the support of experienced former teachers to help those most affected get back on track.

Returning to teaching might be easier than expected with help and support from the Department for Education (DfE).

If your former colleagues are unsure about a full return, there is also an opportunity to engage with the [National Tutoring Programme](#) to provide tutoring or mentoring to help disadvantaged pupils.

Former teachers holding [Qualified Teacher Status](#) who want to teach maths, physics or modern foreign languages could gain one-to-one support from a [Return to Teaching Adviser](#) (RTTA). There are also upcoming [online events](#) for returning teachers to ask the questions they may have. We also encourage setting up

job alerts through the DfE's [Teaching Vacancies](#) job-listing service to help search for roles in specific areas, filter results by job role, education phase and working pattern.

Our [Get Into Teaching](#) webpage offers a range of useful online resources, including blogs, FAQs and top tips to help bring back valuable experience to the classroom.

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](#)

Unsubscribe from the daily email

You will continue to receive this daily email if you have supplied your contact information as part of your formal Department for

Education establishment record (for example, in get information about schools) or you are registered as a team leader in the Test and Trace service.

If your contact information is not held formally by us, you can unsubscribe using this [unsubscribe form](#).