

Today's email includes information on:

- the Secretary of State for Education's letter to teachers, leaders and other school staff
- contacting NHS Test and Trace on 119 for issues and queries about the supply, ordering and delivery of test kits for all settings that are part of the education rapid testing programme
- the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) for state-maintained schools
- the frequency of the COVID-19 sector email

Letter to teachers, leaders, and other school staff from the Secretary of State for Education

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a letter to teachers, leaders and other school staff all over the country to thank you for all your efforts over the last 18 months and to look ahead to a new academic year that brings a greater sense of normality. The letter is available to read on our [Education Hub blog](#).

Contacting NHS Test and Trace on 119 for issues and queries about the supply, ordering and delivery of test kits for all

settings that are part of the education rapid testing programme

Please contact NHS Test and Trace on 119 for any issues or queries about the supply, ordering or delivery of test kits. The helpline is open 7:00am to 11:00pm, Monday to Sunday. Please note that the DfE COVID-19 helpline will no longer be able to respond to queries about test kit supply and logistics.

For all other enquiries about the rapid testing programme in education, please continue to contact the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Information for state-maintained schools on the National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

We are pleased to announce the launch of the second year of the NTP for the academic year 2021/22.

Last year saw over 300,000 pupils, whose learning was significantly impacted by the pandemic, benefit from catch-up tutoring and mentoring via the NTP. This year, we are aiming to reach thousands more pupils, all of whom will benefit from the support available.

Building on the success of the first phase of the NTP, we have listened to your feedback and expanded the programme. We recognise that each school has pupils with different needs. We have developed a tutoring offer that provides a high degree of flexibility and choice to support the pupils most in need.

Schools will now be able to consider three options available through NTP:

- Tuition Partners – schools access tutoring from an approved list of tutoring providers known as Tuition Partners (TPs). TPs offer a range of subjects and provide targeted support for pupils in small group or one-to-one sessions
- Academic Mentors – mentors work alongside teachers in eligible schools to support students. They are salaried members of staff and will work alongside teachers to provide a range of interventions, focusing on small group and one-to-one sessions. They will provide support tailored to schools, including subject-specific work, revision lessons and additional support
- School-Led Tutoring (new to the NTP this year) – eligible schools are given a ring-fenced grant to fund locally sourced tutoring provision for disadvantaged pupils. This could include using existing staff such as teachers and teaching assistants or external tutoring resources such as private tutors or returning teachers. The grant gives schools the flexibility to use tutors with whom they are familiar

All schools are encouraged to apply for the NTP. To register or find out more about the options available, please see the information [about the National Tutoring Programme](#).

Frequency of the COVID-19 sector email

You may have noticed that we have reduced the frequency of the COVID-19 sector email recently. This is in response to the feedback we received from the sector email and sector guidance survey that we sent to you in June.

Your feedback indicated that you would prefer not to receive an email unless there has been a significant change to guidance or an important update. We are continuing to review the email and your feedback to ensure it remains relevant and useful to education and childcare settings.

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](#).

