

Today's email includes:

- a reminder to schools and colleges: encouraging twice weekly testing
- information on LFD test kit stock supply
- a webinar providing factual information for schools on the 12 to 15 year old COVID-19 vaccination
- information on the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund
- information on the closure of the Furlough Scheme
- information on the allocations for school-led tutoring

Reminder to schools and colleges: encouraging twice weekly testing

Thank you for all your work to encourage testing. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms.

We have worked with school leaders and further education providers to identify some strategies that have been successfully used to increase participation in testing. These are fully outlined in a new toolkit [‘how to encourage pupils and students to test regularly’](#).

[Reporting test results](#) is just as important as taking the test, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed. Please remind staff and students to report their result on [NHS Test and Trace](#).

LFD test kit stock supply

To facilitate twice weekly testing at home for staff and students, when your test kit stocks start to run low you will need to order more test kits as these will not be automatically sent to you. You can order more test kits using the [online re-ordering portal](#).

To support outbreak interventions, you may be asked to increase the frequency of testing by your Director of Public Health. In this scenario you should use any existing stock of test kits in the first instance. If further supply is required there are a number of channels available to you:

- business as usual (BAU) order through the [online re-ordering portal](#): orders placed through the online reordering system before 5pm on Tuesday will be delivered the following week. Schools and colleges should continue to use the BAU channel to replenish stock to support regular twice-weekly testing and any increased testing as directed by Directors of Public Health.
- Local Authority: if your school or college has insufficient test kits, you should liaise with your Local Authority to understand if there is excess stock available to support additional testing.
- emergency orders: you can place an order for an emergency replenishment by contacting 119 if the BAU and Local Authority channels are unable to fulfil the requirement for test kits to help manage an outbreak. These orders will be delivered within 48 hours.

Webinar providing factual information to schools on 12-15 year old COVID-19 vaccination

On Thursday 7 October at 15:00-16:00 the NHS England Vaccine Deployment Programme will be hosting a clinician-led webinar for education leaders on the vaccination programme.

This webinar will include information on:

- the clinical decision to vaccinate this age group
- the vaccination programme and the role of schools in it
- resources and support available for schools

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions about the programme.

You will be able to access the webinar on Thursday via [this link](#). A recording of the webinar will also be made available after the session on [the document sharing platform](#).

The Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has established a new £500 million Household Support Fund to help the hardest-hit families and individuals with daily needs such as food, clothing and utilities. The fund is being run by Local Authorities in England, who are best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

You can find more information on [support for vulnerable families over winter](#). Further details on the Household Support Fund will be available on DWP's website in due course.

The furlough scheme has now closed

The furlough scheme has now closed and final claims for September must be made by Thursday 14 October. For September claims, the government will pay 60% of employees'

usual wages for hours they were furloughed, up to a maximum of £1,875 per month. Employees must receive 80% of their usual wages up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. Employers will have to make up the difference between the government payment and what the employee should receive. More information about the scheme is at [coronavirus \(COVID-19\): work and financial support](#) and [coronavirus \(COVID-19\): business support](#).

Information on the allocations for school-led tutoring

On Friday 1 October, the Department published the [allocations for school-led tutoring](#). All state-funded schools and academy trusts can use this information to look up how much funding they will shortly receive to deliver school-led tutoring. The programme went live at the beginning of September and detailed guidance and conditions of grant are available [here](#).

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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