

Today's email includes:

- information on COVID-19 testing during October half-term
- information for schools on COVID-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds
- information relating to questions on School-Led Tutoring in the Educational Setting Status Form for schools

COVID-19 testing during October half-term

As you continue, or approach, your half-term break, please continue to encourage your staff, students and pupils to test twice-weekly at home over this period, as well as testing at home the evening before they return to their setting. To help you communicate to parents, children and young people on the importance of COVID-19 testing during half-term, a template letter is now available on the [document sharing platform](#).

Information for schools on COVID-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

Thank you for all your work to support the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds in schools. With your help, 15% of 12 to 15 year olds have now been vaccinated. Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 within schools.

We ask that you continue to work closely with your School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) teams on the in-school COVID-19

vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds. Offering vaccines in schools is important for ensuring all children can get a vaccine if they and their parents choose to do so.

To support you in doing this, and based on feedback we gathered from schools, we have published a new [“how to” guide](#). This includes useful information and resources for schools, including a template letter that can be used to communicate with parents.

NHS England will soon be opening an additional offer for 12 to 15 year olds to get their COVID-19 vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. This offer will run in parallel to the in-school vaccination programme. Parents of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme shortly, including information about how to book an appointment out of school, if this option is preferred.

Not all children will be able to attend an out of school site, and so in continuing to support the in-school programme, you are helping to ensure all children and young people have an equal opportunity to be vaccinated.

Please see the [guidance on COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools and parents](#) for further information and resources on the vaccination programme.

Questions on School-Led Tutoring in the Educational Setting Status Form

On Wednesday 3 November, we will be contacting schools to ask about plans to use the [School-Led Tutoring grant](#) and delivery so far. You will be asked to submit information about the use of the grant through the [Educational Setting Status Form](#).

We will ask you:

- is your school currently using the School-Led Tutoring grant to provide tuition?
- since the beginning of the Autumn term, how many pupils have received tuition through the School-Led Tutoring grant in total?
- since the beginning of the Autumn term, how many pupil hours of tuition have been delivered through the School-Led Tutoring grant in total?

Going forward, we will repeat these questions every four weeks. If your school has not yet begun using the grant, there is an option to record this in the form as well.

Collecting this information will help us to understand the roll-out of the programme. Thank you for your continued support.

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 UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Advice Service, (formally the Public Health England (PHE) Advice Service) are available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education and childcare settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education and childcare 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](#)
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#)

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