

Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please find below this week's Government updates for you, your staff and your families.

We have also included information on the May Take a Break Sessions and a message from Integrated Children's Services on the Children's Portal.

Updates for the Sector

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests](#) 1 April 2021

Updated: Additional information on what to do if your lateral flow test (LFT) test is positive, and how to claim financial support.

You must self-isolate immediately as you could be fined if you do not do this.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a [PCR test](#) to confirm the result (within two days of the LFT being positive)
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

If you do not take a PCR test within two days of testing positive via LFT, you and your contacts may need to isolate for the full 10 days whatever the follow-up result.

Financial support if you test positive

You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to self-isolate.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested](#) 1 April 2021

Updated: Updated to add links to the Be My Eyes app for help registering and taking a test.

You can have a live video call with specially trained NHS Test and Trace staff to help you register and take a home coronavirus test. Download the free [Be My Eyes app for IOS](#) or [for Android](#) and go to the 'specialised help' section.

[Check if you can claim for your employees' wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) 1 April 2021

Updated: Claims for furlough days in March 2021 must be made by 14 April 2021 (all other CJRS documents were updated with the same information).

[NHS Test and Trace: what to do if you are contacted](#) 2 April 2021

Updated: A detailed definition of 10-day isolation with a link to [stay at home guidance](#) added. Update to asymptomatic testing for contacts information.

[\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do](#) 5 April 2021

As expected: all childcare and supervised activities will be allowed indoors (as well as outdoors) for all children. Parent and child groups can take place indoors (as well as outdoors) for up to 15 people (children under five will not be counted in this number).

[Recovery Loan Scheme launches today](#) 6 April 2021

First Published: A new government-backed loan scheme launches today (6 April) to provide additional finance to those businesses that need it.

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) 7 April 2021

Change made: Updated advice on the use of face coverings, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and self-isolation. We have removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 Response – spring 2021.

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) 7 April 2021

Change made: Updated advice on the use of face coverings in schools and out-of-school settings and added new guidance on test and trace support payments. We have also removed information on who can attend out-of-school settings prior to 29 March and updated information to reflect the commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

Updates for Families

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#) 7 April 2021

Change made: Updated advice on the use of face coverings in education and updated information to reflect commencement of step 2 of the COVID-19 response – spring 2021.

Take a Break Meetings

We are offering you the opportunity to participate in our May Take a Break Meetings. As attendance at the March meetings was low, we are offering three dates this time.

These sessions are an additional opportunity for you to discuss with your peers any issues that are concerning you during these challenging times. On joining the meeting you will be put into a break out room where you can talk confidentially with fellow Managers/Owners/childminders to share information and ideas. The meetings will be hosted by The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Area Leads. If you have any questions as you come out of your break out rooms, the Area Lead will take a note of them.

Take a Break meeting details are as follows. You do not need to book a place on these meetings, simply use the Zoom link provided for the meeting below.

Area	Date and time	Link to join Zoom meeting
East & South	Tuesday 11 May 4 – 5 pm	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86435730770?pwd=RWxBWIR0a0tudDJVdHdtY2VTZzBjdz09
Childminders & Out of School	Wednesday 12 May 7.30 – 8.30 pm	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84643814532?pwd=eEVGc3JnL0tSNFVlVHo1RUorTnl2dz09
North & West	Friday 14 May 10 – 11 am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81929186833?pwd=Z0E2aHRESG50UHNLY2k2N2tBTDivUT09

Message from Integrated Children's Services

We are pleased to advise that the Children's Portal is now available for making referrals into the Front Door Service, so you will now be directed to the portal Request For Support Form via the Kelsi or KSCMP websites.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/integrated-childrens-services/Early-Help-Toolkit>

<https://www.kscmp.org.uk/>

Remember that you will need to enter your password and email address to receive your authentication code.

Any forgotten passwords can be reset via the portal page - full guidance below:

- [Children's Portal user guidance \(PDF, 418.0 KB\)](#)

Many thanks for your patience over the last few weeks.