

Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please find attached a letter to all early years providers from Vicky Ford, Minister for Children and Families and Jo Churchill, Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care. The letter pulls together some important advice and guidance on support for children's health and wellbeing.

Please also see below and attached information relating to the COVID-19 Grant Fund. Also below are this week's Government updates for you, your staff and families. For your ease of reference we have also attached DfE Guidance for Out of School and Holiday Play Scheme Providers and Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers, both of which have had changes made as referenced in the updates below.

COVID-19 Grant Fund

Please find below and attached information relating to the COVID-19 Grant Fund, particularly inviting applications against the stated criteria by the specified closing date and time. Please note that this is **separate from and additional to** invitations to apply for Reconnect funding previously circulated and also to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) Grant, the criteria for which was discussed at recent Briefing and Networking Sessions and about which further information will be shared in due course.

As part of the COMF, Kent County Council has developed the COVID-19 Grant Fund which has now launched and can be accessed via this [link](#). The fund will support projects and initiatives through a number of grant rounds, each one of which will focus on a particular area of need. Each initiative supported will help towards the prevention and containment of COVID-19 outbreaks or help support those that have been disproportionately affected as a result of the pandemic. The maximum grant value will be £10,000, however we expect the average award value to be in the region of £5,000.

The grant scheme is currently open to receiving bids from initiatives that cover the below areas.

- Engaging communities and reducing risk factors
- Reintegration activities for families with young children or expectant parents

Further information relating to the specific grant rounds has been attached and more information on how to apply or the grant scheme in general can be found [here](#). The closing date for grant applications is 6pm on 20 July 2021.

Updates for Sector

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) 6 July 2021

Change made: Added operational guidance for early years settings which applies at Step 4. This guidance removes restrictions such as keeping children in small consistent groups and wearing face coverings in communal areas. It also includes information about updating your outbreak management plan and what to do when an individual in your setting tests positive for COVID-19. At Step 4, close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. From 16 August, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact. They will be advised to take a PCR test.

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

Change made: We have added COVID-19: Action for Out-of-school Settings guidance which applies from Step 4. This guidance removes restrictions such as keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles), wearing face coverings in classrooms, communal areas and in community settings, limits on parental attendance, and restrictions on group sizes for residential visits. It also includes information about updating your outbreak management plan and what to do when an individual in your setting tests positive for COVID-19. From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact.

[Work out your turnover so you can claim the fifth SEISS grant](#) 6 July 2021

First Published :Find out the turnover figures you'll need before you claim, where to find them and how they affect your grant amount.

[Check if you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) 6 July 2021

This guidance has been updated with information about the fifth SEISS grant.

[Check if you need to change your Self Assessment return for SEISS](#) 2 July 2021

First Published: Find out when you may need to make a change to your Self-Assessment tax return for SEISS payments, and how to do it.

Updates for Families

[SELF-ISOLATION TO BE EASED FOR FULLY VACCINATED ADULTS IN STEP 4](#)

6 July 2021

First Published: From 16 August, double jabbed individuals and under 18s will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19