

Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please see below information on changes to the childminder testing process and guidance is attached for childminders on uploading LFD test results. There is also information on a Department for Education telephone survey of childcare and early years providers, as well as this week's Government updates for you and your staff. There have been no updates for families this week.

Also included is a reminder about booking your place on the next round of Briefing and Networking Sessions.

## **Changes to Childminder Testing Process**

Following feedback on the registration and uploading process since March, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS Test and Trace have been working to identify ways to make it easier for childminders to identify their profession when recording results on the NHS COVID-19 test results [portal](#).

The changes came into effect from 2 June and are designed to allow us to monitor more clearly the effectiveness of our testing programme and identify any areas or groups within the early years childcare system that are not engaging in testing, so we can identify potential barriers.

Instructions on how childminders can access testing kits remains unchanged and can be found on the [gov.uk webpage](#)

This means that childminders will need to follow the process detailed in the attached document for each completed asymptomatic LFD rapid test.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Department for Education Coronavirus Helpdesk. Information on how to contact them can be found [here](#)

## **Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021**

We have been advised by the Early Years Entitlements Team of the following:  
*Last week, several of you contacted us with questions about a telephone survey that some of your local providers have been invited to complete by the Department for Education. We would like to confirm that this contact is part of the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2021 and is a legitimate request that has been issued on behalf of the Department for Education. We commission an independent research contractor (NatCen) to carry out the survey fieldwork. This research is very important to the Department and providers' participation would be extremely valuable, but is entirely voluntary.*

*When contacting school-based and group-based providers we do aim to limit calls to business hours unless an appointment outside of those times has been agreed, but we appreciate that this hasn't always been the experience of some settings. If*

*interviewers do call at a time that is not convenient for your providers, they are happy to call back at a time that suits respondents.*

## Updates for the Sector

[Download a template if you're claiming for 16 to 99 employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) 27 May 2021

Change made: First published.

[Pay Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grants back](#) 27 May 2021

Change made: New section added called 'How to correct overclaims in your next claim'.

[Claim for wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) 27 May 2021

Change made: Section added called 'If you're putting lots of employees on furlough'.  
New link added to download a template for claiming for 16 to 99 employees.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): financial support for education, early years and children's social care](#) 27 May 2021

Change made: Document 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care' updated to reflect latest updates across sectors.

## Briefing and Networking Sessions

We still have some places on the forthcoming Briefing and Networking Sessions so please book your place by clicking on one of the codes below. All events are taking place virtually via Zoom.

<a href="#">EYC 21/005</a>	South group settings and schools	Tuesday 15 June	4 – 6 pm
<a href="#">EYC 21/006</a>	West group settings and schools	Wednesday 16 June	4 – 6 pm
<a href="#">EYC 21/007</a>	North group settings and schools	Tuesday 22 June	4 – 6 pm
<a href="#">EYC 21/008</a>	East group settings and schools	Tuesday 29 June	4 – 6 pm
<a href="#">EYC 21/011</a>	Childminders and out of school settings	Wednesday 23 June	7.30 – 9.30 pm
<a href="#">EYC 21/012</a>	Childminders and out of school settings	Wednesday 7 July	7.30 – 9.30 pm

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.