

Dear early years and childcare providers

Please see below the content of an email sent by the Department for Education (DfE) to PVI nurseries yesterday regarding the delivery of home testing kits, for those of you who may have missed it. Also below are Government updates for you, your staff and your families.

We have also included at the foot of this email links to the remaining 'Take a Break' sessions which are running next week. If you missed the sessions that ran this week and are able to attend even although it isn't with providers from your area, please feel free to join.

Department for Education (DfE) Email - Delivery of Home Testing Kits

Following [the announcement on 22 February](#), nurseries in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector will soon have access to home testing kits through the COVID-19 education testing programme.

PVI nurseries can expect to start receiving initial deliveries of testing supplies and instructions for use for asymptomatic testing from this Thursday 11 March. You will not need to place an order or take any specific steps to receive an initial delivery of testing supplies. The initial delivery of supplies should last around 3 to 4 weeks.

Please make sure that someone is available who can accept the deliveries when they arrive. A delivery schedule will be circulated shortly which will provide details as to when your setting can expect its delivery. Please refer to this schedule in the first instance of any questions arising.

The lateral flow device (LFD) test kits should be stored securely at a temperature between 2°C and 30°C and so must not be stored outside.

You should not open the test kits or commence testing yet. We will circulate further guidance on asymptomatic home testing in the next couple of days. This will include in-depth guidance and webinars on how settings can manage the testing process.

To add you to the education testing programme, Ofsted has provided your contact details to the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care. We will only use your contact details to update you with the latest information on the COVID-19 education testing programme.

Updates for the Sector

[Free rapid tests for all businesses for regular workplace testing](#) 6 March 2021

First Published: All businesses in England are now able to sign up to the government's free COVID-19 workplace testing programme.

- Workplace testing now available to all businesses, including those with fewer than 50 employees
- Business encouraged to register interest by 31 March to access free workplace testing
- Regular testing will be a vital part of the government's roadmap to cautiously ease restrictions

[Online portal to register](#)

[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update](#)

5 March 2021

Change made: Updated the 'Early years and childcare' section to inform providers that notifications of confirmed cases of COVID-19 will not prompt a regulatory visit.

[Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for open businesses\)](#)

8 March 2021

Page summary: The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG (Sector)) supports businesses that have been closed due to the national restrictions Change made: Grant scheme closing date and details of new subsidy allowance confirmed

[Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant](#) 8 March 2021

Page summary: The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed. Change made: Details of new subsidy allowance confirmed.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice on accessing green spaces safely](#) 10 March

Change made: Allotments removed from the list of outdoor sports venues that must remain closed

Updates for families

[National lockdown: Stay at Home](#) 8 March

Change made: Updated guidance with new rules and restrictions from 8 March.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice on accessing green spaces safely](#)

Advice on using green spaces and protecting yourself and others from coronavirus.

Change made: Updated guidance with new rules that apply from 8 March

Take a Break Sessions

Area	Date and time	Link to join Zoom meeting
East	Monday 15 March 8.30 – 9.30 am	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83094173641?pwd=T3ZpK2F4ajNFd09PaS9USGIyVHBHZz09
South	Thursday 18 March 5.30 – 6.30 pm	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88114912177?pwd=VjBKUEpLdUpHemhSWUYvQ3REMlI3dz09