

Dear early years and childcare providers

Please find below Government updates for you, your staff and your families. Also included below information and links to Funder Tuesdays and Kent County Council's Communication Materials Survey.

## **Updates for the Sector**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested](#) 26 February 2021

Change made: Updated to reflect that the employer referral portal is now closed and employers should direct essential workers to the self-referral portal to get a prioritised test.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for pregnant employees](#) 26 February 2021

Change made: Updated the link to RCOG and RCM guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and pregnancy. Under 'Background', added that the government has published the 'COVID-19 response – Spring 2021' setting out the roadmap out of the current lockdown for England, and that from 8 March some of the rules on what you can and cannot do will be changing.

[Making your Self-Assessment payments including Class 2 National Insurance contributions](#) 2 March 2021

Change made: The pay in instalments section has been updated to show you can set up a Time to Pay arrangement online for amounts up to £30,000 up to 60 days after 31 January 2021 without having to contact us.

[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update](#) 2 March 2021

Updated 'Our phased return to inspection' section: Ofsted are currently discussing the form and timing of inspections in the summer term and beyond with government and stakeholders

[Recovery Loan Scheme](#) 3 March 2021

A new loan scheme to support access to finance for UK business as they grow and recover from the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Change made: First published.

[Updates to tax charges when a person is no longer eligible to Self-Employment Income Support Scheme payments](#) 3 March 2021

This tax information and impact note is about the tax charge arising when a person is ineligible for a Self-Employment Income Support grant previously claimed.

Change made: First published.

[Self-Employment Income Support Scheme fourth grant](#) 3 March 2021

Find out if you're eligible for the fourth grant which will cover the period February 2021 to April 2021. Also find out information about the fifth grant.

Change made: Find out information about the fourth and fifth grant.

[Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) 3 March 2021

Find out how the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is changing.

Change made: The scheme has been extended until 30 September 2021. Find out more about changes to the level of the grant from 1 July 2021.

## Updates for Families

[All households with children of school aged to get rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week](#) 26 February 2021

First published : Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March. Tests can easily be ordered and collected from local sites, or administered through workplace testing programmes.

[COVID-19 PCR home test kit instructions](#) 2 March 2021

Change made: Added translations of 'How to test yourself for coronavirus (COVID-19) at home (easy read).

[COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) 3 March 2021

Advice for parents and carers on looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Amended weblinks under Guidance for parents and carers.

## Reminder: Last Chance to Complete KCC's Communication Materials Survey

KCC's Communication Materials Survey closes tomorrow, Friday 4 March. If you wish to make your views known on the support you would find helpful, please complete the survey using the following link.

<https://surveys.kent.gov.uk/CovidSettingsSurvey>

## Funder Tuesdays

Charities, voluntary and community groups in Kent and Medway can join Funding for All, in partnership with [Stronger Kent Communities](#), for a new series of funding talks, **[Funder Tuesdays!](#)** Hear from a fantastic line up of local and national funders in these free online sessions followed by a chance to ask your questions.