

Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

As COVID-19 rates are rising across Kent, in some areas particularly, we appreciate that things are becoming increasingly challenging for you and, in conversation with many of you, we recognise and do not underestimate the pressure you may be under. I would like to continue to thank you all for your considerable efforts in the interests of your children and families. We hope that the information in the blog this week will be useful to you.

Thank you,

Yours

*Alex Gamby
Head of Early Years & Childcare*

Government Updates for the Sector

[TFC: Children and transmission, 4 November 2020](#)

Paper prepared by the Children's Task and Finish Group (TFC) for the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) which looked at the opening and closing of education establishments and the impact on transmission along with the risks and harms (health, community transmission, mental health, wellbeing, development and education attainment).

[Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#) Updated 13 November

Updated 'What specific steps should be taken to care for children with complex medical needs, such as tracheostomies?' to include guidance on aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) in education and children's social care settings.

[Education and childcare settings: national restrictions from 5 November 2020](#)

Updated 16 November

Updated the guidance on out of school activities and wraparound childcare, clinically extremely vulnerable children and staff, and extracurricular activities in schools, and added clarification on when face coverings should be worn.

[Penalties for not telling HMRC about coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support scheme overpayments – CC/FS11a](#) Updated 13 November

If you've received a grant but were not eligible or you've been overpaid, find out about penalties you may have to pay if you do not tell HRMC.

Government Updates for Parents/Carers

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) Updated 12 November

Updated to include information on the national restrictions by adding a 'national restrictions' section and updating the relevant information about face coverings, clinically extremely vulnerable children and extracurricular activities.

What this means is independent providers of after school, holidays clubs and other out of school activities for children can continue to operate if it is for:

- childcare purposes, to enable you to work, search for work or to undertake education or training
- the purpose of respite care of a vulnerable child
- existing arrangements by home educating families.

[Education and childcare settings: national restrictions from 5 November 2020](#)

Updated 13 November

This document sets out what the expectations are for nurseries, preschools, childminders and out of school provision during the National Lockdown. It was updated this week to include information about the use of face coverings for children aged 11 and over and staff, and who should be accessing out of school provision.

Emergency Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for registered childcare settings: Suspected cases of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced that they will be providing some PPE items free of charge to education and registered childcare settings in England for their coronavirus (COVID-19) related needs.

As per the Department for Education's (DfE's) [guidance](#), during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, additional PPE is only required in a very limited number of scenarios:

- if an individual child, young person or other learner becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained
- when performing [aerosol generating procedures \(AGPs\)](#)

For further information specific to early years settings please refer to [actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

DHSC and DfE have already delivered PPE packs to all schools and further education providers in Kent to help build resilience across the education sector to respond to suspected cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). KCC will be receiving a quantity of PPE for distribution to registered childcare settings next week (w/c 23 November). We are working with KCS to arrange delivery of a PPE pack to all registered childcare settings in Kent, including childminders.

Each PPE pack will contain:

- 1 x pack of 200 aprons
- 1 x pack of 200 gloves
- 1 x pack of 50 Type IIR masks
- 5 x pairs of goggles
- 1 x alcohol hand rub (provided solely for use in the putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) of the above emergency PPE).

Please note, this is PPE solely for use when dealing with suspected cases of COVID-19 within your setting and should not be repurposed for any other use.

We are advised by DHSC that schools and childcare settings are still required to supply their own PPE for any other purpose.

If you are a registered childcare setting and would like to receive this pack you do not need to do anything, but if you do not require one please [complete this short form](#) by Friday 27 November to be removed from the distribution list.

Any queries? Please contact kccppeprovidersupport@kent.gov.uk.

Message from Kent Fire & Rescue Service

At Kent Fire and Rescue, we are always working to ensure that our safety education is engaging and relevant for all ages. As part of our recent developments, we are looking at the messaging we share with children aged 3 – 4 years (preschool) and we would greatly appreciate your input. If you are a preschool or nursery provider in Kent, please click on the below link to complete the survey.

https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/KFRS_Early_Years_education

The survey contains a series of questions which will help us to develop a new and exciting engagement for this age group. Your responses will be collated and will therefore inform our next steps. If you have any questions or queries, please contact Chloe Julian at chloe.julian@kent.fire-uk.org

Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business is a series of virtual events that run parallel to the '16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence' campaign to raise awareness and educate communities about domestic abuse.

Kent Integrated Abuse Service (KIDAS) are holding sixteen days of FREE virtual training events, which once registered you can access at any time. Training is pitched at different levels to suit a variety of needs and knowledge bases.

To register, please visit <https://daeverybodysbusiness.org/programme>