Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

Please see below this week’s Government updates for you and your staff.

As cases of COVID-19 rise across the county we would ask you to please notify your Childcare Sufficiency Officer or Childminding Adviser of all positive cases, including staff and children and to provide details if this has also impacted your ability to deliver your full offer. This data is really useful so that we can map the areas most affected and identify where we may need to support with brokerage requests.  Thank you.

**Government Updates**

[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=d94ae935-c46b-40b8-a0fd-2243d3435755&utm_content=daily) 22 December 2021
Guidance updated to reflect changes to the self-isolation advice for people who have received a positive COVID-19 test result.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from the sixth day of your isolation period, and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result. You should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation following 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart.

If you take an LFD test from the sixth day of your isolation period, and the test result is positive, wait 24 hours before you take the next test.

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), you may take daily LFD tests from the 21st. If your LFD test results are negative on the 21st and 22nd, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your isolation period after the negative test result on the 22nd.

[Self-isolation for COVID-19 cases to be reduced from 10 to 7 days following negative LFD tests](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-to-be-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=0ca17b3e-e68c-44ba-b245-e7804ae68d43&utm_content=daily) 22 December 2021

First Published: From Wednesday 22 December, new guidance will enable the 10-day self-isolation period for people who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) to be reduced to 7 days in most cases.

[Test and Trace services continue over the festive period](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/test-and-trace-services-continue-over-the-festive-period?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=6c8eed42-b092-47a3-b84d-7262e7b55985&utm_content=daily) 22 December 2021

Change made:
Amended first table heading to clarify opening times are inclusive of local and drive through testing sites but not mobile testing units.

[Check if you can claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to employees due to coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=77aff5b1-1ca9-457c-9acd-c8d1e60949d0&utm_content=daily) 21 December 2021

Page summary:
If you’re an employer, find out if you can use the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme to claim back employees’ coronavirus-related Statutory Sick Pay (SSP).
This scheme will be reintroduced from mid-January 2022. Further guidance will be available as soon as possible.

[Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-your-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=cc199fe0-ac6d-4489-b14d-74032ff05709&utm_content=daily) 21 December 2021

This scheme will be reintroduced from mid-January 2022. Further guidance will be available as soon as possible.

[Pay Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grants back](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-grants-back?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=cacdb541-4399-423a-a617-88b7f0a2c430&utm_content=daily) 20th December

Change made: Added section ‘If you need more time to work out what you owe

May we take this opportunity to wish you a restful break over the Christmas weekend.  The Early Years & Childcare Service will not be working tomorrow 24 December and will reopen again on Wednesday 29 December.