Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

There are no Government updates this week.  However, as we are aware of some settings who have been unsure what to do when there are larger numbers of COVID-19 cases in their settings, we have provided below some key information from the Contingency Framework document shared with you in early October.

**Contingency Framework: Education and Childcare Settings**

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. It covers all types of measures that settings should be prepared for and sets out thresholds for managing COVID-19 cases and when settings should consider seeking public health advice.

All education and childcare settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) describing what they would do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19. If the number of positive cases substantially increases, it could indicate transmission is happening so at this point settings should consider extra action. The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

* 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
* 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:

* 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

When the thresholds are reached, education and childcare settings should review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place. Further advice about extra actions to take can be found in the [Contingency Framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings#close-mixing) .

Settings may wish to seek additional public health advice if they are concerned about transmission in the setting, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.