



## Education and Early Help News Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we fast approach the start of the new school term, I am confident that our schools, colleges and early years settings have made thorough and carefully planned arrangements for full opening in September. I am grateful and have respect for the creativity, care and commitment that has gone into these preparations and wish everyone; leaders, staff, governors, parents, carers, children and young people all the very best for the start to the term.

We have ordered the bulletin to try and logically help you access key up to date Worcestershire information including the data about levels of infection, the latest outbreak procedures and home to school travel arrangements. I hope this is helpful for you in making final preparations and communicating with staff and parents.

### Contents

Local Covid Data.....	2
Management of cases and local outbreaks in educational, early years and childcare settings .....	2
Travel Corridors.....	2
Risk Assessment for Staff .....	3
Face coverings in education.....	3
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings.....	3
Face Coverings Exemptions Toolkit .....	4
Coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits .....	4
Dedicated School Transport.....	5
Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak .....	5
Guidance for out of year education for Children with EHCPs .....	5
Educational settings status form to resume on 1 September .....	6
Remote Education.....	6
Use of Community and Sports Facilities .....	7
Understanding Trauma – Free Online Course .....	8
Back to School: School Leaders Communication Pack.....	8

## Local Covid Data

A report has been developed to provide an update to education providers on COVID-19 locally. The report includes confirmed cases at county and district level, and weekly deaths across Worcestershire. This report is updated as data is released, and the latest version can be accessed through the following link: <https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/matthew-fung/covid-19-report-for-education-providers>

## Management of cases and local outbreaks in educational, early years and childcare settings

Public Health are regularly reviewing and updating the procedures and guidance on the management of suspected cases, management of confirmed cases and arrangements for management of a possible outbreak.

[You can access the latest version of the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\) and the flowcharts for suspected and confirmed cases on the Worcestershire County Council website.](#)

If you are an education or early years setting with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 issue or outbreak, please let Worcestershire County Council's Public Health know about this by using the following notification form:

<https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TestAndTracePublic/SchoolEducation>

## Travel Corridors

The Government has updated its list on countries and territories with no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England. This guidance covers areas such as exemption rules, travel advice, travel corridor list and more.

Unless you're arriving from an exempt country you will need to self-isolate for the first 14 days you arrive back in the UK.

[Access information and guidance on travel corridors in full](#)

## Risk Assessment for Staff

In case you missed it we previously circulated a HR risk assessment template which you may find useful when discussing risk factors with individual members of staff with health conditions.

[Download HR risk assessment template for staff with health conditions.](#)

If you have any questions regarding staff with health conditions, please seek advice from your HR consultant.

## Face coverings in education

On Wednesday 26 August, the DfE published new guidance on the use of face coverings for schools and other education institutions that teach people in Years 7 and above in England. This guidance is intended to support early years and childcare providers, schools, including alternative provision, and colleges with new advice on the use of face coverings

[Read the guidance on face coverings in education in full](#)

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

Schools and further education institutions will shortly receive a delivery of a small amount of personal protective equipment (PPE). This one-off distribution of PPE will contain clinical face masks, aprons, gloves and visors, as well as the hand sanitiser needed to put on and take off PPE.

The PPE is being provided free of charge by the Department of Health and Social Care to help build resilience across the education sector to respond to any suspected cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) arising in schools and colleges. Deliveries via Royal Mail will begin on 26 August. Visors will be sent as a separate delivery from the rest of the PPE.

As set out in our [guidance on safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#), PPE is only needed if a child, young person or other learner becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in school or college, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

**In addition, WCC Logistics Team are currently sending out either 10, 50 or 100 face coverings with zip lock bags for storage to every Middle, Secondary, High, PRU, AP and further education settings for use on transport to and from school by children in year 7 and above if they do not have their own face covering. Pack sizes for each setting will be dependent on the number of children in year 7 and above in the school.**

Drivers have been advised to inform any child without their own face covering that they can get one from the school. Drivers will not refuse entry to buses – wearing face coverings on transport is a recommendation.

## Face Coverings Exemptions Toolkit

Following the [new guidance published on transport to school and other places of education: autumn term 2020](#), the Disability Unit and Public Health England have developed a new Face Coverings Exemptions Toolkit.

This toolkit contains some useful visual cards and posters to raise awareness and inform others of an individual's exemption from using coverings and their rights.

[Download the Face Coverings Exemptions Toolkit](#)

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits

Schools and further education institutions will shortly receive an initial supply of ten home test kits in line with the commitment we made in July. Deliveries via Royal Mail will begin on 26 August. Email notifications will be sent two days before delivery.

You should only offer a home test kit to individuals who have developed symptoms while at school or college (or to their parent or carer if the child is under 18) in the exceptional circumstance that you believe they may have barriers to accessing a test elsewhere, and that giving them a home test kit directly will therefore significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. This will help you to take swift action to protect students and staff in the event of a positive test result. The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

From 1 September, if schools or further education institutions have not received their test kits by the start of their term, they should contact the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119.

**Please note that you will have to ask parents to share the results with your school to pass on to Public Health as currently the system does not link these test results to a school for Public Health or Test & Trace purposes.**

**Home test kits should only be offered to individuals in the exceptional circumstance that you believe an individual may have barriers to accessing testing elsewhere. The best and fastest way for students or staff to access a test is to visit a testing site.**

[Read the DfE guidance on home test kits for schools and FE providers in full](#)

## Dedicated School Transport

Dedicated school transport (that is transport that does not cater for the general public), including buses and taxis, for both mainstream and SEND pupils will need to return to full passenger capacity from September 2020.

Worcestershire County Council's approach to school transport from September 2020 has been guided by the principles underpinning the system of controls and guidance set out by the UK government.

We would appreciate the support of parents and carers of pupils travelling on home to school transport services to communicate the safety rules for travelling on school transport services outlined below to their children.

[Read the guidance on Worcestershire School Transport in full](#)

## Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

On Thursday 20 August, the DfE updated guidance on protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The guidance has been updated for autumn term, making clear the position on group sizes and how providers can minimise the risk of children mixing outside their school bubbles, as well as additional content on music and performing arts, educational visits and shared resources.

[Read the guidance on protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings in full](#)

## Guidance for out of year education for Children with EHCPs

We have just published specific guidance for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan where a parental request is made for children to be educated out of their chronological year group in schools.

[View guidance on educating children with an EHC Plan out of year group](#)

## Educational settings status form to resume on 1 September

From Tuesday 1 September, schools and colleges will be asked to resume completing a revised daily educational setting status form. The information to be collected will include:

- number of pupils or students in attendance
- number of pupils or students with a social worker or with an education, health and care plan
- number of teacher absences

Further information is available from the link below - including guidance, a link to the form and further information (including how to answer the questions on the form)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>

If you have any further queries please email [coronavirusreport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:coronavirusreport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Remote Education

*In the DfE [Guidance for Full School Opening](#), published 17 August there was a section dedicated to Remote Education, and the expectations of schools in their provision:*

‘Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we expect schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education. Schools are expected to consider how to continue to improve the quality of their existing offer and have a strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision by the end of September. This planning will be particularly important to support a scenario in which the logistical challenges of remote provision are greatest, for example where large numbers of pupils are required to remain at home.

In developing these contingency plans, we expect schools to:

- use a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos, and that is linked to the school’s curriculum expectations
- give access to high quality remote education resources
- select the online tools that will be consistently used across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback, and make sure staff are trained in their use
- provide printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, for pupils who do not have suitable online access
- recognise that younger pupils and some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education without adult support, and so schools should work with families to deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum.

When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high quality curriculum resources and/or videos
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks and set a clear expectation on how regularly teachers will check work
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers

We expect schools to consider these expectations in relation to the pupils' age, stage of development and/or special educational needs, for example where this would place significant demands on parents' help or support. We expect schools to avoid an over-reliance on long-term projects or internet research activities.

The government will also explore making a temporary continuity direction in the autumn term, to give additional clarity to schools, pupils and parents as to what remote education should be provided. DfE will engage with the sector before a final decision is made on this.'

*Meanwhile the School Improvement team are developing advice and support for schools regarding remote education and will be sharing this in early September. The intention is that this will follow a similar format to the Recovery Curriculum Support Pack shared with schools in July.*

## Use of Community and Sports Facilities

The government have issued general guidance for use of community facilities and also specific guidance for some activities, in particular sport and recreation.

Many schools have buildings and rooms, including halls, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and swimming pools that they hire out or offer for community use, these are defined as Community Facilities by government.

This document summarises the guidance that has been issued by central government and other relevant bodies to assist schools in their management of these facilities. The decisions and responsibility for how facilities are managed, used, operated and maintained remains with the school.

[Download guidance on use of community and sports facilities.](#)

## Understanding Trauma – Free Online Course

This free online course is free for professionals across Worcestershire and is made up of 13 modules:

- Type 1 and type 2 trauma;
- The window of tolerance;
- Stages of going through a traumatic experience;
- Neurology and trauma;
- Recognising trauma;
- Recovery from trauma;
- SELF model;
- Trauma, attachment and epigenetics;
- Community trauma;
- Organisational trauma;
- Trauma aware community.

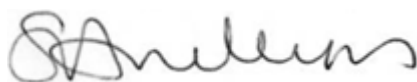
To find out more information or to book on go to [www.solihullapproachparenting.com](http://www.solihullapproachparenting.com) and select 'online courses for professionals'. Once you are registered as a professional enter the access code 'BLACKPEARPRF'.

## Back to School: School Leaders Communication Pack

DfE have created a communications pack with materials to help you inform and reassure parents who are preparing for their children's return to school. The pack includes leaflets, images and videos to share with parents on the importance of regular handwashing, advice on travelling to and from school and templates for you to tailor for your school.

These resources are available to download through our [Dropbox](#) and the [Public Health England communications resources hub](#).

Best regards,



Sarah Wilkins  
Director for Education and Early Help

