



This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings

We have updated our guidance on social distancing in education and childcare settings, focusing on measures that can be put in place to help limit the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading within these settings.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Funding available to schools to support them with exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19)

The government is making extra funding available for schools to cover the unique challenges and financial costs of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. While we do not know at this stage how long the current situation will continue, this guidance covers support for schools up to the end of the 2019-20 summer term.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools>

Update to free school meals provision over Easter holidays

The Government has confirmed it will extend financial support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals who are not attending school during the Easter holidays.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Online educational resources to support children to continue learning at home

We have published a list of online resources that parents, and schools can consider to support children to continue learning at home. The list will be updated over time, and includes a wide range of resources for all ages that schools can consider using as part of their planned curriculum. Schools have already been drawing on existing resources and tools they are familiar with to support children to continue learning at home and should continue to do so.

More information can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

Updated guidance on apprenticeship programme

We have updated our guidance on the apprenticeship programme response to coronavirus (COVID-19) including information on the continuation of training and end point assessments for furloughed apprentices, and the pausing of new funding audits.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response>

The information below has not changed since yesterday.

Updated handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides

none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home:

- <https://e-bug.eu/>

Collection of guidance for educational settings on GOV.UK

All of the Department for Education's coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found in one place on GOV.UK at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Our main guidance for schools, the 'school closures guidance', will be regularly kept up-to-date. Any new advice for schools on specific issues, such as food, exams or safeguarding, will be linked from it:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UKPRN) available when calling the hotline.