

Friday 26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write briefly, further to my letter of [23 February](#), to provide you with a little more detail on our students' return to schools and the [asymptomatic coronavirus testing](#) programme. Further detail and advice will follow next week, but we wanted to give you as much information as we can in advance of our return to support you in your own forward planning.

I also provide at the end of this letter links to additional sources of information that have been published since my letter of [23 February](#), should you wish to access the information. I also include links to information regarding the decisions that have been made and were published yesterday regarding how qualifications will be awarded this summer. We will be holding an information briefing with affected families next week, alongside a special online assembly with students, and will also of course provide more detail in writing.

## **Phased return to school from 8 March**

To facilitate the first of the three on-site asymptomatic tests of all of our students' and welcome everyone back to school safely, and to ensure that the return is as disruption free for families as we can make it, we will be phasing the return to school for students by year group, in the priority order outlined in Department for Education (DfE) [guidance](#):

- Students in Y11 and Y13 return on Monday 8 March, with students in Y7-10 and Y12 (and any in Y11 and Y13 isolating or shielding) receiving remote education.
- Students in Y10 and Y12 return on Tuesday 9 March, with students in Y7-9 (and any in Y10-13 isolating or shielding) receiving remote education.
- Students in Y7 and Y9 return on Wednesday 10 March, with students in Y8 (and any in Y7 and Y9-13 isolating or shielding) receiving remote education.
- Students in Y8 return on Thursday 11 March, with all other students isolating or shielding receiving remote education.

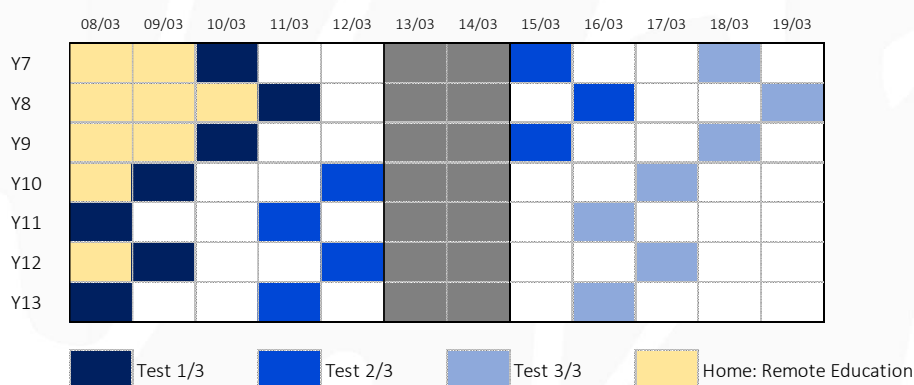
Please note that:

- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in all years will continue to attend on-site provision as it stands now, but will join their respective year group as they return for testing and to return to timetabled lessons.
- School transport will be running as normal from Monday 8 March.

## On-site testing schedule

On the first day of their scheduled return, students traveling on school transport will return to school first, followed at a later point in the day by other students in the respective year groups. I will write again with precise timings and further advice next week, but in short:

- Students traveling on school transport will remain in their bus groups while testing takes place (including students for whom we do not have consent for testing) and will move to their scheduled lesson once all tests are completed and confirmed negative. (This is because, as I outlined in my letter of 23 February, updated [guidance](#) from Public Health England on what is meant by a 'contact' of someone with confirmed coronavirus infection includes 'travelling in the same vehicle'.)
- All other students who do not use school transport will be similarly grouped on their return until testing and results are confirmed negative.
- Any student who tests positive, along with any identified contacts, must return home to isolate and will be isolated in school until collection by parent(s)/carer(s) or other member of their household.
- Students will be called from lessons for their second and third on-site tests over the course of the two-week period from 8 to 19 March, as illustrated below.



## Consent for asymptomatic testing

Since my letter of [23 February](#), guidance has changed, and it is now the case that where consent was already sought and given for planned asymptomatic testing in January, schools are no longer required to ask for consent again. We will, nevertheless, again provide you with details about the testing in a letter next week and afford you the opportunity of changing your consent (either to withdraw or give it) before 8 March.

## Sources of Information

Since my letter of [23 February](#), there has been a considerable amount of further guidance and direction given to schools, which I share here for your information should you wish to access the full detail:

- [Guidance from the Department for Education \(DfE\) for parents and carers](#) has been updated to provide detail about attending schools in the spring term 2021.
- The Secretary of State for Education has also published this [open letter to parents and carers](#) about the decision to lift restrictions on education from 8 March, about the asymptomatic testing programme, and about the strengthening of the safety measures that schools already have in place to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission.
- [This DfE blog](#) attempts to answer questions parents and carers may have regarding students' return to school from 8 March, and this joint [press release](#) from the DfE and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) addresses the mass asymptomatic testing COVID-19.
- The full decisions from the joint Ofqual and DfE consultation regarding the award of qualifications this summer were published yesterday, and can be viewed in full [here](#) for GCSE, AS and A Level, and [here](#) for Vocational and Technical Qualifications. The subsequent guidance for awarding qualifications in summer 2021 can be accessed [here](#), and you may find this [article from the Chief Regulator of Ofqual](#) provides a useful explanation of the arrangements.
- Now that policy decisions about awarding qualifications this summer have been confirmed, Ofqual have launched a [consultation](#) on their proposed guidance for schools on how to determine teacher assessed grades and what evidence should be considered. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11 March 2021 and responses can be made [here](#).

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Thank you very much once again for your continued support. To reiterate, I will write again next week with precise detail and more information. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

As ever, keep safe, and keep looking after yourself and each other.

Yours sincerely,



Derrick Brett (Principal).



# Important

Advice for schools

## CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN

**A CHILD WHO DEVELOPS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL CORONAVIRUS CASE:**



### **NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH**

*This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if the child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)*



### **FEVER (TEMPERATURE OF 37.8°C OR HIGHER)**

*The child will also feel hot to touch on their chest or back*



### **A LOSS OR CHANGE TO SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE**

*this means the child has noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.*

**MOST CHILDREN WITH CORONAVIRUS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SYMPTOMS.**



If a child is unwell with one or more of these specific symptoms they should be told not to come into school or sent home as soon as possible and advised to get a coronavirus test. **ONLY** those children with one or more of these symptoms or those advised by their clinician or Local Authority should get a test.



Children reporting other symptoms such as a headache, sore throat, runny or sniffly nose, earache, itchy eyes, lethargy or tiredness **WITHOUT** a fever should **NOT** be treated as potential coronavirus cases or advised to take a test.

If the national guidance on symptoms of coronavirus in children changes, updated information will be provided at a local level as soon as possible. This information about coronavirus symptoms in children can be shared with all school teaching and administration staff as well as parents and carers where necessary.

**For further guidance on coronavirus testing for schools, please read the letter from PHE and NHS Test and Trace to school and college leaders at: [bit.ly/phe-schools](https://bit.ly/phe-schools)**



# ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

# STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.  
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

## ▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

## ▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

## ▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

## ▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

## ▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

## ▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

## ▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

## ▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

## ▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

## ▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

## ▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

## ▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

## ▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

## ▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

## ▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

## ▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

## ▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.