



Dear Colleagues,

To keep you all up-to-date with the latest information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), and help protect yourself and others, we will be issuing regular updates.

The dedicated COVID-19 information area on the HES portal contains all communications and updates from the Local Authority and central government relating to COVID-19. All early years providers and schools can access this area by using the following link: <http://hes.org.uk/covid19>.

The items in this update are intended for all education providers - where the guidance is only relevant to a particular phase of education or type of provider, this is indicated.

HR Update (Schools)

The HES HR team have produced the attached document, which provides updated HR guidance to all schools in Havering concerning the following:

- Employee Shielding
- Self Isolation Prior to Admission to Hospital
- Quarantine on returning to the UK
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

We understand that the DfE will be issuing updated advice on Employee Shielding as part of their September Opening guidance, which is due to be issued shortly. If this is the case, further HR guidance will be issued.

COVID Summer Food Fund (Schools)

The DfE have released [guidance](#) on providing vouchers to support pupils eligible for free school meals over the summer holiday period during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the DfE have recognised families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. That is why they are launching a COVID Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.



The payments for the COVID Summer Food Fund will be met centrally by DfE. This is in addition to the free school meals national voucher scheme and will support children who usually receive benefits-related free school meals.

The guidance covers how to order the vouchers, sending them to parents or carers, redeeming the vouchers, and alternative support.

Education Support

Education Support are the only UK charity dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of the entire education workforce.

For education staff, they operate a free and confidential helpline, which is available 24/7 to everyone working in education and is available UK wide on 08000 562 561. Their trained counsellors listen without judgement, and no issue is too big or too small.

They also offer a grants service, which helps working in or retired education staff experiencing short-term financial issues. Use their online form to [apply](#) for a grant. They can also support with [training costs](#) if you're wishing to change career or re-join the education sector.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, they have continued to support the sector, and have provided a range of [resources](#) to help teachers, lecturers and support staff dealing with the COVID-19 crisis.

Further Guidance

All of the Department for Education's [Coronavirus guidance for educational settings can be found on GOV.UK](#). This includes specific guidance on implementing protective measures, answers to frequently asked questions for schools and guidance on issues such as remote education, providing free school meals and attendance, among other things.

DfE coronavirus helpline

Telephone 0800 046 8687

If you have a query about Coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments, and children's social care, in England contact the DfE helpline.



Lines are open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends.

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