



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.

Safe Working and Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings

Earlier this week, the Prime Minister set out further changes to lockdown measures in England to enable people to see more of their friends and family, help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in their jobs.

In a statement to the House, the Prime Minister also stated that wrap-around care for school age children and formal childcare will restart over the summer, and that primary and secondary education will recommence in September with full attendance.

Following a review, the Prime Minister has also set out that where it is possible, people should keep 2 metres apart, but where it is not possible, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of 'one metre plus'. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.

It is not clear if 'one metre plus' social distancing will apply to schools and early years providers, and the DfE has not yet updated their [guidance](#) relating to safe working. The Prime Minister's statement is clear that 2 metres social distancing must be observed unless it can't, in which case, other measures should be implemented, including;

- avoiding face-to-face seating by changing office layouts,
- reducing the number of people in enclosed spaces,
- improving ventilation,
- using protective screens and face coverings,
- closing non-essential social spaces,
- providing hand sanitiser, and
- changing shift patterns so that staff work in set teams.



Many of these measures would be difficult to implement in a school or early years setting, so the Local Authority has asked for urgent clarity on this matter from the DfE.

Should the DfE confirm that the 'one metre plus' social distancing applies to schools and early years providers, the template risk assessment will be updated and circulated.

Mental Health Training and Support Resource

The mental health training and support resource created by providers from across Havering Council, NHS and voluntary sector has been updated for the remainder of the Summer term. It contains updates on adaptations that have been made in light of COVID-19, including remote/ virtual delivery of training and support, how to express an interest in future training when it can resume and, with government guidance changing frequently, who to get in touch with to get the latest update on the support and services available.

It is available to download at www.havering.gov.uk/mentalhealthresource.

No account or login details are required, so it is accessible to all staff.

If you have any questions regarding the training and support listed in the resource, please use the training provider contact details provided within it.

If you have any general feedback on the resource, or if there are other organisations your school works with that you would recommend and think should be included in it, please contact Claire Alp (Claire.Alp@havering.gov.uk or 01708 431365).

School funding: Exceptional Costs Associated with COVID-19 (Schools)

The DfE have updated their [guidance](#) on funding available to schools to support them with costs associated with COVID-19. This latest update includes added information on the impact of schools' financial reserves on eligibility for this funding, and details of what support schools can access for the loss of self-generated income, as it is not covered by this fund.

The DfE have also amended the content to confirm that schools should proceed with the phased wider opening and any measures associated with it within existing resources, as any costs incurred as part of that process cannot be claimed through this fund.



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.