

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 July 2020 20:08

Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 1 July 2020 including Holiday Childcare update

Dear All

You will have heard in the news yesterday that we have now been in lockdown for 100 days and that Leicester and some surrounding areas will remain in lockdown with the wider opening of schools and settings being stopped from Thursday.

It feels like this is something we are going to have to get used to hearing as the lockdown eases further for all the other parts of England. We will need to reflect on this as the plans for September and Summer opening are being published by the DfE this week. What we do know from Monday's announcements is that school attendance will be compulsory and that protective measures other than social distancing will be in place, what we do not know yet is what these will be and how these will work, but we will share these with you as soon as we receive updates.

Please find below updates on the following areas: -

- Summer Holiday / Out of School Provision Opening Guidance
- Responding to a case of COVID19
- Summer 2020 Term Amendment Payments
- Reminder about the Interim Headcount Dates
- Attendance Data
- Updated FAQs

Summer Holiday / Out of School Provision Opening Guidance Whilst maintaining an early years offer for families over the summer period, we also now need to think about planning for summer holiday childcare options for working families. This of course is challenging, with the *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* only being published today. The details can be found at the following link

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

Along with the following guidance *for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings*

[Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

We don't yet know what demand for holiday childcare will look like; but are trying to ascertain what capacity and places may be available for parents that need places for their children. To support this, we have been getting in touch with the out of school and holiday providers this week to start to gather in who is planning on opening, and what support might be needed to help with this.

We would also like to talk to any early years providers or childminders who usually offers group summer holiday care to school age children and / or childminders who would be able to offer additional places for school aged children either from their home or willing to use their childminder registration at on alternative non-domestic premises under the "50% rule"

If you would like to tell us that you will be offering summer holiday places for schools age children, would like to share your views with us or like some support in thinking about opening, please complete the attached feedback form and return to the Early Years Mailbox (Early.Years@essex.gov.uk) and we will be in touch with you

Responding to a case of COVID19

Public Health have advised us that settings should contact them if they have a positive case. The details to do this are below. The attached guidance around responding to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID19 has been updated in response to this and some queries received. The updates are in blue and cover symptoms that mean an individual should access a test and symptoms which mean an individual should not return to a setting.

To notify Public Health of a case of COVID19, settings can call the Public Health England (PHE) East of England team on 0300 303 8537 (option 1). If the matter is not urgent, settings can also email: oe.crc@phe.gov.uk to notify PHE.

Summer 2020 Term Amendment Payments – the payment process for these amendments has now started, and payment should be made within the next 10 days, but will be made by the end of term at the latest

Reminder on the Interim headcount dates – the interim headcount should open on the Funding portal from 6 July 2020. Please note there is planned maintenance and migration work for the Funding portal, and there is a chance there may be a possible delay in opening the interim headcount for a day or two. For this reason, the interim headcount will remain open for longer than usual and won't close until 15 July 2020. Please look out for announcements on the Funding Portal confirming when the Interim Headcount is open

Attendance Survey – *as a reminder we are now only collecting the data from you on a Thursday.* From the attendance data you are submitting to us, we can see that currently 34% of providers are open, with an increase to 6,033 children attending last week. Thank you for your feedback on the revised questions. We have fed these back to the DfE, and thank you for your ongoing support in providing us with this information each week to share with the DfE.

There are still some providers that we know are open not submitting an attendance return, please support us in keeping an accurate log by submitting your data on the on-line survey.

The link to the attendance survey is <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/f271a4fc/>

Best wishes

Carolyn

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