

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 13 September 2020 19:44

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

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 13 September 2020

Dear Provider

I hope that this term has started well for you and your families.

Please find updates on the following items:

- DfE Updates on
 - Education exemptions on the maximum number of 6
 - What to do if a child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Notifying ECC if your setting needs to partially or fully close due to confirmed Covid-19 cases
- Template Letters
- Removal of EYFS Disapplications from 25 September 2020
- Public Health England launches Every Mind Matters campaign
- Reminder on the DfE Covid-19 helpline contact details
- Ofsted Guidance for education providers about Ofsted's phased return to inspection.
- Weekly Attendance Survey
- Provider Portal Technical Issues
- Autumn 2020 Actual Headcount task
- Updated FAQs

DfE updates

The DfE have released a FAQ's document which covers exemption to the maximum number of 6 for registered childcare (see 2.10). The link can be found is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

What to do if a pupil is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The DfE have published a list of actions that early years, schools and further education colleges must follow in the event that a child or young person displays symptoms or if they confirm they have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The action lists are sector specific and print friendly. The link for early years settings can be accessed using the following link:

[action list for early years and childcare providers](#)

The DfE have also put together a flow diagram to use and this can be found at the following link:-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/915589/Symptomatic_children_action_list_EARLY_YEARS.pdf

If anyone in your early years setting, school or college confirms that they have had a positive test for coronavirus (COVID-19), you should notify your [local health protection team](#) immediately. The health protection team will work with you to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify the appropriate next steps.

The Joint Biosecurity Centre has also published [Action Cards](#) to provide the latest instructions for anyone responsible for businesses or organisations on how to identify, report and respond to coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. This includes action cards for the education sector, with more detail about what information your local health protection team may ask you.

Notifying ECC if your setting needs to partially or fully close due to confirmed Covid-19 cases if you need to partially or fully close your setting we need you to inform us so we can keep an accurate central record of all closures. Therefore, please inform us of any partial or full closures by emailing the Free Entitlement Funding Queries mailbox at FEFFQueries@essex.gov.uk

Template Letters – we have put together some template letters, attached to this email, that you may find helpful to use to write to parents in the following situations:

- To inform of a single case
- Outbreak within setting
- Writing to close contacts of a confirmed case

Removal of EYFS Disapplications from 25 September 2020 as a reminder all of the learning and development and assessment EYFS disapplications will be removed as of 25 September 2020, meaning providers will need to reinstate the EYFS for these areas from this date, The full details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2/early-years-foundation-stage-coronavirus-disapplications>

Public Health England launches Every Mind Matters campaign Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school or college, the new Public Health England (PHE) [Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign](#) provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them.

The new advice available on the [Every Mind Matters website](#) has been developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities, including [Young Minds](#), [The Mix](#), [Place2Be](#) and [The Anna Freud Centre](#). It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and support them, and also provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing. The site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing.

Reminder on the DfE Covid-19 helpline contact details that is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687
Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Ofsted Guidance for education providers about Ofsted's phased return to inspection - Yvette Stanley has [recorded a short video](#) explaining Ofsted's approach to early years this autumn. Ofsted will be conducting interim visits this term for some providers, inspection of those providers on the childcare register and they will also be carrying out research to find out what the impact of the pandemic has been on children and early years providers. If you need to find out any more information about the work Ofsted have planned, you can read their collection of documents titled [Ofsted's autumn plans for 2020](#).

[Education plans from September 2020](#)

Weekly Attendance Survey – thank you to all of those settings that completed the Attendance Survey last Thursday and please providing us the data as ECC is required to report to the DfE, but we only had a response rate of 57% of settings we have been informed are open.

We have heard from some settings that it is getting increasingly difficult to identify the children of critical workers and we have fed this back to the DfE. The survey doesn't allow you to bypass this question and so we would suggest that if you cannot assess the accurate number you decide on a % (ie 10% of the children attending) and use this % of your attendance each week for your submission for consistency

As a reminder to schools we do need you to submit your early years attendance data even though you are already making a submission to the DfE for the whole school. This is to allow the DfE to have an accurate picture of the actual number of early years children attending provision.

The attendance survey link can be found at:
<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/abd4a0d4>

Provider Portal technical issues some of you may be aware that we have been having technical issues with the Provider Portal and as a result it has needed to be shut down whilst our system provider try to resolve the issue and we apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused, but this issue has been caused by circumstances beyond our control.

Autumn 2020 term Actual Headcount task so long as the technical issues are resolved, the Early Years Autumn 2020 Actual Headcount will go live on Monday morning 14/09/2020 – any changes to this will be communicated to all providers. If necessary we will extend the headcount and where required, we will work with individual providers to ensure that they are able to submit their actual headcount for the Autumn 2020 term

Updated FAQs please find attached an update FAQs document.

Best wishes

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager

Strategy, Planning and Performance

Education Directorate

Essex County Council

<https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/>

Please note my normal working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

T: 033 3013 6481

Mob: 078 2586 0004

E:: carolyn.terry@essex.gov.uk

