

Updated FAQs 4 October 2020

We are currently looking at contingency planning. Is there an updated list of keyworkers and professions and do the family had to have 2 keyworkers or only one to be eligible for a place within a setting?

Guidance currently states the following if needing to prioritise places:

From 20 July, normal group sizes can resume so all children should be able to attend as normal. This means prioritisation of children should no longer be necessary.

If there is a need to prioritise places (for example, where a nursery is oversubscribed, or unable to operate at full capacity), settings should give priority to vulnerable children and children of critical workers; then 3- and 4-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to reception in September; followed by younger age groups.

Guidance on who is classed as a key worker can be found on the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Previously the guidance stated that only one adult needs to be classed as a key worker, but we are aware that settings and schools put in their criteria for attendance that both parents needed to be a key worker, especially if spaces were limited.

Due to the pandemic we have had to stagger our new starters over the first half-term. Children who were due to start with us in April have all started and been included in headcount. Children who were due to start this term, will be starting after headcount day and I was intending to include them on our Amendment headcount as late claims.

Of these late claims, some children already attend another setting and have been attending there since the beginning of term so will be included on their actual headcount. I have just read through the Headcount Q&A and as they are already attending an Essex setting, we cannot enter a late claim for them.

Due to COVID-19 we are making exceptions to the handbook as settings are adjusting the intake of children according to their risk assessments etc for the Autumn 2020 term only.

Providers will be able to put in a late claim for children who attend 2 settings and the other setting have claimed at the actual headcount. The parent agreement form should be completed and signed by the parent confirming what hours and weeks the child is attending each setting, ensuring that no more than the 30 or 15 hours will be claimed per week for the 14 weeks of the autumn term. If this is the case for your setting, please let us know so we know who will need to be able to access the late claim task

If a family has been on holiday, can they send their child to nursery if the parent has obtained a private test within 14 days of returning from abroad and this came back as negative?

*No, there are **no** exceptions about the 14 day quarantine, whether it is a private or NHS test, more information can be found on the following link:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>

How do I register for the national employer portal to access COVID testing?

You can access information on how to register for the employer portal by clicking on the following link
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Should early years settings display a QR code for the NHS app and ask all staff to scan as they come in?

There is no expectation for settings to display a QR code for the NHS app.

DfE guidance states that early years providers should risk assess and have system controls in place as per guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>. Section 3.5 of the DfE's Actions for early years and childcare providers provides some more information, which can be found at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>

It is important that staff are aware of the settings risk assessment and system controls which are in place.