

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2020 16:21
Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 1 November 2020

Dear All

I am sure you will all have seen the announcement on Saturday that there will be new national restrictions in place from 5 November 2020, subject to parliamentary approval on Wednesday. Some initial guidance has been issued, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>, and out some of the information on these restrictions, including saying early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will remain open.

Section 8 of this guidance covers Childcare and Children's Activities and says the following: -
Parents will still be able to access some registered childcare and other childcare activities (including wraparound care) where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, or for the purposes of respite care.

Early years settings can remain open

The Government has also said that the furlough scheme will be extended, and the detail can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/furlough-scheme-extended-and-further-economic-support-announced>

We expect to receive more guidance on all of this in the coming days, and we will update as soon as this is received. In the meantime, based on the information received so far, you should plan to remain open.

The DfE also updated the guidance last week on guidance on [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to include the latest information on self-isolation and shielding, who needs to get a test for coronavirus (COVID-19), face coverings, assessment and exams

DfE Weekly Attendance Survey – this is continuing and from the 2 November there is a new link to the survey. We have made a couple of changes, such as removing the question on Critical workers and asked for breakdown of age of children for the question 'not able to meet childcare needs.' We know how busy and under pressure everyone is and we are constantly trying to find ways to make this easier for you to complete – from this week we will use the data you provide us with going forward each week and you will only need to update your attendance if it significantly changes so please make every effort to give us the data this week.

This is the new link <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforce-development-1/33697525>

Termly Childcare Sufficiency data Survey – this survey was due to close last week, but we have not had a very good response and so are extending the deadline to give you more time to complete. As above, we do appreciate this is another survey for you to complete but it is critical we get this data in from all of you to help us to continue to understand the impact Covid-19 is having on the sector. So do please try and find the time to complete this in the coming weeks

The link to this survey is: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/workforcedevelopment-1/be6b7b5f>

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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

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