

Frequently Asked Questions – Regarding Lockdown 2.0

5th November 2020

If your query is not answered below, please use the following contacts:

Any COVID Queries	FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk
Essex Test and Trace Team	0300 303 2698 provide.escontacttracing@nhs.net

	Mid	North	South	West
EYFS / practice queries	EYAdvisers.Mid@Essex.gov.uk	eyanortheast@essex.gov.uk	EYadviser.South@essex.gov.uk	EYFS.West@essex.gov.uk
Business support	Alan.haylock@essex.gov.uk	Alan.haylock@essex.gov.uk	Gemma.eva@essex.gov.uk	Rosemary.newell@essex.gov.uk

Clinically extremely vulnerable

The guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable individuals from Dept of Health and Public Health England has been updated following the lockdown announcement and can be found [here](#). You may wish to seek your own HR advice too.

Should staff in the clinically extremely vulnerable category come to work onsite?	No. These individuals will have received a letter informing them that they fall in this category and they should work from home.
Can clinically extremely vulnerable staff work on site, if they want to?	The guidance is clear that individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable should work from home for the lockdown period. If the member of staff understands the guidance but still wants to work on site, you should undertake a clear risk assessment and they should sign their acknowledgement that they are making a decision to work onsite against medical advice.
Can clinically extremely vulnerable children come to the setting if they want to?	Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice and so can attend their setting. Families should seek advice from their GP or specialist clinician, to understand whether their child/ren should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend their setting while this advice is in place. You should make appropriate arrangements to support these children at home.

Should children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable attend school?	Yes. The guidance for individuals who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable applies to those individuals only. Children living in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable are not advised to follow this guidance and should attend their setting.
--	---

Clinically vulnerable

Should staff in the clinically vulnerable category come to work onsite?	Yes. These individuals should continue to work onsite, adhering to the protective measures in place.
Should those clinically vulnerable staff be moved to roles which are not children facing?	Clinically vulnerable staff can work on site. It is not essential that they are moved to roles which are not children facing. You should undertake a risk assessment, which will identify the appropriate measures for your setting and the individual.
Should children who are clinically vulnerable (not extremely) attend the setting?	Yes. You should complete an individual risk assessment, identify any additional protective measures to be implemented and ensure the children are advised to adhere to those measures.

Testing and self-isolation

<p>Staff member has been notified via COVID app to isolate.</p> <p>Can a test be taken instead, or do they need to follow the app instructions?</p>	<p>Any individual advised to isolate by the app or by the Contact Tracing Team needs to isolate for the full amount of time advised.</p> <p>14days from date of the positive individual's symptoms starting, or date they last came into contact with that individual if symptom start date is not known.</p> <p>Taking a test will not allow the individual to end the isolation period early, even if it is negative. This is because the test is only measuring the day of testing and the individual could still go on to develop symptoms during the 14days.</p>
<p>Individual has travelled abroad; do they need to isolate?</p> <p>Can they take a test and return to the setting earlier?</p>	<p>Staff or children who have travelled need to isolate for 14days on return to the UK, unless the country they visited is on the exemption list.</p> <p>If they have visited any country that is not on the list they must isolate, even if they have travelled back to the UK via a country that is on the list.</p> <p>Taking a test will not allow them to end the isolation period early, even if it is negative. The full period of time must be adhered to.</p>

Household members of those seeking a test.	<p>If a member of a household is symptomatic and waiting for a COVID test or the results of a test, the whole household must self-isolate. Students and staff must not come to school.</p> <p>If the result is negative the household can then end their isolation period. Providing they have not been identified as a close contact of a positive individual or required to quarantine due to international travel.</p>
If a member of staff is self-isolating does a setting pay staff contracted hours or pay sick pay?	<p>If a member of staff is self-isolating due to Covid-19 the setting can pay them statutory sick pay, and this can be claimed back</p> <p>Full guidance on the eligibility criteria can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19</p>

General Queries

Can settings still utilise volunteers and students on placement?	Yes – volunteers and students should be treated like any other staff members and adhere to the protective measures in place.
Our setting is based in a community building, will this need to close?	No, the guidance says that public / community buildings can stay open in some circumstances such as providing childcare and food banks
Are we able to show new parents around our setting?	<p>No. Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. This means suspending parent and carer visits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new admissions, • settling-in children new to the setting • attending organised performances
Should we provide remote support for families that choose not to send their children to the setting, even though we are open, and the children are not clinically extremely vulnerable?	<p>The expectation is that these children can continue attend their setting. However, we know there are families who are more nervous to send their children, particularly where there are extremely clinically vulnerable household members.</p> <p>If children are not attending, we would expect welfare checks to be put in place to keep in touch with the family.</p>
Am I able to charge the parents for their child's place if the family are self-isolating and not bringing the child?	Yes, if the child is not attending due to the parents' decision and the childcare place remains open, subject to your setting policy, you should be able to still charge the parents for the place for the period they are not attending

<p>Am I able to charge the parents for their child's place if the setting needs to partially or fully close due to Covid-19?</p>	<p>No, if the setting has needed to partially or fully close due to Covid-19 and the child is unable to attend, the setting is not able to charge the parent their fees for this period as the place is not available</p> <p>Please note, that in this instance ECC would not be seeking to claw any FEEE funding back for these periods</p>
<p>Can I provide morning and after school provision for multiple schools?</p>	<p>The newly issued guidance says registered childcare and other childcare activities (including wraparound care) can continue to enable parents to work, or for the purposes of respite care.</p> <p>The guidance remains that contact should be limited as much as practically possible. If a setting is providing care for more than one school, we would recommend working with the relevant schools on their policy and put children in school bubbles where possible or if mixing more than one schools then to keep these children in school groups and school bubbles within this.</p>

Please see below information that has been shared with schools that you may find helpful

Clubs, activities, childcare and tutoring

<p>Can wrap around care continue?</p>	<p>Yes. Registered childcare and other childcare activities (including wraparound care) can continue to enable parents to work, or for the purposes of respite care.</p>
<p>Can informal childcare between households continue?</p>	<p>Parents are able to form one childcare bubble with one other household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.</p> <p>Households with a single adult can also form a support bubble, with one other household.</p>
<p>Can youth clubs continue?</p>	<p>Some youth services may be able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.</p>
<p>Independent sports clubs (not childcare)</p>	<p>These have been stopped during the lockdown period. The guidance states: Training for extra-curricular purposes, for instance as part of clubs, should not take place. Facilitated activities for children where these provide a childcare function for working parents are allowed to continue.</p>

Can school lunchtime and afternoon sports clubs, run by external providers, continue to run?

We are awaiting DFE advice on this, our suggestion is that these can continue, with protective measures in place. Consideration should be given to consistent groupings and the approach to changing of clothes for activities.