

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 24 January 2021 22:12

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 24 January 2021

Dear All

Please find updates / reminders on the following in this email: -

- Covid Testing for Early Years settings
- Repeat tests for those that have previously had Covid-19
- Vaccinations for Early Years settings
- Vaccination Scams
- Summary EYFS: coronavirus disapplications
- Ofsted inspections
- Upcoming Early Years Business Management Consultant Information Sessions
- Reminder for: -
 - Headcount / Early Years Census returns deadline
 - Funding Opportunity – Early Years deadline to submit an expression of interest
 - Return to weekly Early Years DfE Attendance returns

Covid Testing for Early Years settings – as previously updated, ECC are looking into the options available to increase the availability of testing for the early years sector. We will provide an update on this as soon as we can

As a reminder, the DfE have said that early years settings should be accessing the local community testing facilities. I have re-attached the list of the local council Covid websites and information on how to access a community Covid test. We have been informed that one local council area is stating that early years practitioners are not able to access a community test and we will be following this up to get this rectified. Please let us know if you are experiencing any other issues, so we can look into these too

For anyone showing symptoms, they should follow the guidance at the following link [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-nhs-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)

Repeat tests for those who have previously had COVID19 We have received a number of queries regarding whether or not a staff member or pupil who has previously tested positive for COVID19, should be tested again in the future. We have liaised with Public Health and our advice is:

If an individual has tested positive for COVID19 they **should not** take part in the regular **asymptomatic** testing for 90 days. This includes the use of lateral flow tests currently offered to staff in secondary schools and colleges and those soon to be in place in primary schools. It also includes testing via the community testing sites for those with no symptoms.

If the individual displays new COVID19 **symptoms**, they must self-isolate with their household and be tested with a PCR test. This is the same no matter what the person's history is of previous covid-19 test or vaccination. It is possible to get COVID19 more than once.

Although the PCR test can remain positive for many weeks after infectiousness is over, this is only in the minority of individuals. With symptoms and a positive test it is likely that this is reinfection and must be treated as such.

Vaccinations for Early Years settings we are in discussions with the team leading on the vaccine for Essex to ensure the priority of the whole education sector, including early years, is raised and we will update on this as soon as we can

Be aware of vaccination scams you will be invited for a Covid-19 vaccination from the NHS. Vaccinations are free and you will never be asked to pay. ECC Trading Standards team has found that residents across Essex are receiving texts asking them to book and pay for their vaccination. This is a scam: do not give any personal information or your payment details. Please make sure older or vulnerable friends and family are aware of this. If you receive a message asking you to pay for a vaccination, [use this form to report it to the Citizens Advice Service](#) or call 08082 231 133.

Summary EYFS: coronavirus disapplications – please see the attached summary for information

Ofsted inspections [Guidance](#) for early years providers has been updated to reflect that assurance inspections will not be carried out until national restrictions allow inspections on site.

Upcoming Early Years Business Management Consultant Information Sessions the Business Management Consultants used feedback from their previous online event and released two more days for online training sessions, including a Childminder specific evening session.

- Tuesday 26 January 2021 Webinar via TEAMS 10.30am to 12.00pm
- Childminder Specific session Wednesday 10 February 2021 Webinar via TEAMS 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Please see the attached document for more information and booking forms

Deadline for Spring 2021 Headcount and Early Years Census – for those of you who have not yet submitted your headcount, please remember the deadline is Wednesday 27 January 2021

Funding Opportunity – Early Years to access Health and Wellbeing support for staff working in registered Early Years and Childcare provision. The deadline to submit an expression of interest for this funding is midday on Monday 25 January 2021 – please see the detail below

Small Grants to Support the Early Years Workforce - grants of up to £2,000 will be available to enable registered Early Years and Childcare providers within the community to access

interventions to support the wellbeing of their own staff where they are feeling the impact of COVID-19. The funding is for small registered Early Years and Childcare providers, who do not have their own dedicated HR function and can demonstrate a need for funding to access targeted support, for example group coaching, counselling, or other well-being resources.

As a reminder the deadline to register an interest **is midday on Monday 25th January 2021** and you need to email kate.fabricant@essex.gov.uk

Return to the weekly Early Years DfE Attendance Survey - as we have previously updated, the DfE has reverted back to weekly attendance surveys for early years settings. The data we were able to gather from rolling data forward week to week where there hadn't been any changes hasn't been able to give us an accurate enough picture of attendance and therefore we do need you to return to providing us with the information on a weekly basis. The link to the survey can be found by here: [DfE Attendance Survey 2021](#) and will be open from Monday morning to 4pm on Thursday each week

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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