

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 22 March 2021 09:17

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 22nd March 2021

Dear Provider

We hope you all had a good weekend and managed to find some time to relax and unwind. We have a few updates for you from last week and apologies for not sending these out sooner.

PACEY Survey

At the start of the pandemic last year, PACEY conducted surveys to identify the immediate issues affecting childminders and direct support where needed at that time. Now, one year on, we are looking at how the sector stands as we ease out of lockdown restrictions and what effects the pandemic may have caused on childminding sustainability.

As part of this we are inviting childminders in England and Wales to take part in our survey on the **financial impact of Covid-19 and their provision 'one year on'**. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete and answers will be kept entirely confidential.

FEEE Funding

The government have published plans for funding local authorities in the 2021 spring term and for the financial year 2021 to 2022.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-free-early-education-entitlements-funding-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=96ec7ed2-8ddd-4c6b-a441-7111772bb477&utm_content=immediately

Updated DfE guidance

The DfE have updated guidance on who can access the lateral flow tests

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Childminders and wraparound childcare staff

'Wraparound childcare' is childcare provided outside of normal school hours, such as breakfast clubs or after-school childcare. Wraparound childcare staff and childminders should continue to get tested by either their employer or use test sites. Alternatively, they can order tests online for home delivery.

Delivery of face coverings to support contingency stock in early years and primary schools

In line with Public Health England (PHE) advice, the Department for Education has temporarily extended its policy on the use of face coverings in education and childcare settings, as an additional precautionary measure during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community.

In primary schools and early years settings, we now recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in these settings should not be asked to wear face coverings. We expect that most adults will already have access to face coverings from their wider use in society, however, it is recommended that all settings have a small contingency stock of face coverings available, should an individual have forgotten, lost or damaged their own.

To support the return to full attendance and ensure maximum compliance with the system of controls, the Department of Health and Social Care is completing a one-off delivery of approximately 450 'Type IIR' masks to early years providers (maintained nursery schools, school-based nurseries, and private, voluntary and independent nurseries) and primary schools where there are multiple members of adult staff and visitors on the premises. This supply is to be used as a contingency stock and you should expect to receive your delivery by Wednesday 17 March.

Childminders will not receive a direct delivery of contingency face covering stock, however you can request a small number (approximately 2 to 5 per childminder) of face coverings from your local nursery or primary school to use only as contingency stock. Nurseries and primary schools should consider how much stock they have available and should use their discretion when deciding if they can support childminders. These face coverings are being provided by the Department of Health and Social Care at no cost to your setting. They cannot accept any returns for these items.

If you have any queries or complaints on delivery or missing items, please contact the Department of Health and Social Care personal protective equipment (PPE) support service (provided by UNIPART) identifying yourself as an education setting and emailing dfeppequeries@unipart.com. Further information on the use of face coverings, please see the [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) guidance.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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