

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 May 2021 19:06

Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 8 May 2021

Dear All

Please find below information on the following areas: -

- Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme – support available to providers
- Ordering testing kits for PVI Providers and Childminders from 10 May 2021
- Ofsted Provider Survey
- Reminder about DfE Attendance Survey

Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme - support available to providers - the DfE have been informed through conversations with various sector stakeholders that some early years practitioners have reservations about engaging with the asymptomatic testing programme because they are worried about the impact on their income in the event of a positive test.

The Government has made available, through the Department for Health and Social Care, a [£500 test & trace support payment scheme](#), to support workers who are required to self-isolate or care for a child who is required to self-isolate, and are unable to work from home. As you may be aware:

- There are two schemes to which early years practitioners who test positive, or who have to care for a child who is required to self-isolate may be eligible to claim from, both of which are administered through LAs.
- The main scheme is intended for those who are working and in receipt of one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income-based Employment & Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit.
- There is also a discretionary scheme for those on low incomes who have lost income by being unable to work from home while self-isolating.

Ordering testing kits for PVI Providers from 10 May 2021 - the test kit supply process for PVI nurseries will be changing from 10 May 2021. A new online system for ordering test kits for testing at home will be in place, so you will be able to regularly re-order test kits and better manage stock levels and deliveries to your setting.

Your Unique Organisation Number (UON) is needed to place orders for test kits, using the new online ordering system. You should have received a separate welcome email containing your UON. You can also find your UON using the [unique organisation number lookup form](#). In order to use the UON lookup website, please enter your URN in the organisation ID field. If your URN is not prefixed with EY (for example EY123456), please add YE as a prefix to your URN (for example YE123456).

If you operate more than one nursery, you will receive a UON for each nursery. This will allow you to order test kits for each individual nursery.

Where an individual nursery is registered with Ofsted with more than one URN, you may also receive more than one UON. In this scenario, nurseries are advised to use the UON associated with their most recently registered URN.

Please note that the last automatic delivery of test kits will be received on either Thursday 6 May, Friday 7 May or Monday 10 May. This should provide you with sufficient test kits to last until the end of May. After this you will need to use the new ordering system to place an order to receive further test kits.

You can order your test kit supplies using the [order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests for your organisation online form](#). For further information on how to place an order, please refer to the ordering guidance available on the [primary schools and nurseries document sharing platform](#).

Ofsted surveys on application and regulation - Ofsted are exploring how they can improve their application and registration services and would be grateful for your views. You can help them by completing the survey below, which covers the early years remits and will close on **13 May**.

[Early years provider survey](#)

Your feedback will help Ofsted to decide what changes to make.

Reminder about DfE Attendance Survey – the response level to the DfE attendance survey has significantly dropped over the last couple of weeks, so can I remind you to complete this for us please? We fully appreciate this is an extra activity for you to complete, but we are expected to submit this data to the DfE and when the returns are low this leads to questions on whether there are enough childcare places available across the county and would really appreciate your support in submitting the weekly return. Please access the survey at this link [DfE Attendance Survey](#)

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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

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