

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

**From:** Free Entitlement Funding Queries  
**Sent:** 26 July 2021 05:50  
**Subject:** Please Read - Covid-19 Update 26 July 2021

Dear All

This week's update will be the last one until September, when we will resume with relevant updates as and when needed. We will of course share any urgent Covid related updates that come up during the holidays. If you need anything urgently during this period, please continue to send any queries to the FEEE mailbox ([fеееqueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:fеееqueries@essex.gov.uk)) and we can pick these up directly.

During the Covid period when we have been regularly sending updates to you, we have created a distribution list that includes any additional email addresses you have asked for the updates to be sent to. From September 2021, we will be reverting to the email address that your setting has registered with Ofsted. Should you no longer wish to receive these emails, please email the FEEE mailbox ([fеееqueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:fеееqueries@essex.gov.uk)) and we will remove you from the distribution list.

Please also remember we do share information and updates via the **Essex Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Practitioner Newsletter**.

As updated before, this is currently published each month, and will shortly be moving to fortnightly. It contains information for early years and childcare providers, including childminders, on topics such as, but not limited to:

- Funding
- Safeguarding
- The EYFS
- Training and qualifications
- Getting started
- Running your business
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion.

So please ensure you look out for the EYFS newsletter to ensure you continue to get access to regular updates. If you are not currently signed up to receive these EYFS newsletters, please use this link to [subscribe](#) where you can find more information on how these subscriptions are managed.

Also included in this update: -

- Reminder about the food vouchers for children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium and FEEE2 Funding
- Updates from the DfE:-
  - What Step 4 changes mean for education and childcare settings
  - Changes to contact tracing for schools, colleges and nurseries from Monday 19 July
  - Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak u
  - What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19
  - Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

- Development Matters
- Use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care

### **Reminder about the food vouchers for children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium and FEEE2 Funding -**

You are able to apply for a **£15 food voucher** for 4 weeks for every **pre-school child** that attends your setting **who is in receipt of EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) or FEEE2 or** Children aged 0-4 (non-statutory school age) who attend your setting who you are aware may be experiencing financial hardship at this time. This is a total of £60.00 per child. Please note the change from the previous £25 per voucher to £15 per voucher this time.

Again, Essex County Council has commissioned Wonde (now called Vouchers for Schools but please note this is still relevant for early years providers) to issue these vouchers and if you registered with the Wonde system to access either the Winter Warmth or previous Food vouchers, you will already have an account set up. To access the £15 food vouchers, childcare providers with children in receipt of **EYPP and FEEE2 funding** need to submit the number of eligible children you have registered at your setting. You will then be allocated a number of vouchers and validation codes that can be downloaded and passed directly to parents. **Please go to:** visit <https://www.evouchers.com/> and click login in the top right hand corner to log in using your email address

We recognise that this is an additional administrative task for you all and we are very appreciative of your support and commitment to your children and their families, we also apologise again for the tight timeline.

Please find see the attached FAQ document and help articles here:

<https://help.evouchers.com/hc/en-gb>

if you require any further support, please contact [support@evouchers.com](mailto:support@evouchers.com) or your relevant Children's Community Development Lead (CCDL) who will do their best to support any queries you have and can be contacted via the following email addresses: -

- Mid Essex - Vickie Thomas [Victoria.Thomas@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Thomas@essex.gov.uk)
- North East Essex - Diane Macefield [Diane.Macefield@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Diane.Macefield@essex.gov.uk)
- South Essex - Candice McPherson [Candice.Mcpherson@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Candice.Mcpherson@essex.gov.uk)
- West Essex - Gill Holland [Gill.Holland@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Gill.Holland@essex.gov.uk)

### **Updates from the DfE**

- **What Step 4 changes mean for education and childcare settings**

As most restrictions across all parts of society were relaxed from Monday 19 July, the DfE want to keep schools, colleges and early years settings informed on what Step 4 changes mean. To help with this, they have recorded a [webinar](#) which provides information on the key changes to COVID-19 measures such as 'bubbles', contact tracing, face coverings, self-isolation and testing, in addition to providing answers to some frequently asked questions.

- **Changes to contact tracing for schools, colleges and nurseries from Monday 19 July**

From Monday 19 July, schools, colleges and nurseries will no longer carry out routine contact tracing. From this point onwards, close contacts will be identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

In response to feedback from stakeholders, the DfE have produced guidance, some frequently asked questions and answers and a template letter for settings to send to parents, pupils and students on changes

to contact tracing of close contacts. These can all be found on the document sharing platforms for [primary and early years](#), [secondary schools](#), [further education and higher education](#) and [children's social care](#).

- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak updated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021](#)

The DfE have updated the actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic to reflect that we moved to Step 4 on 19 July. This includes removing the section on 'contact tracing until Step 4'. The DfE have also updated sections on clinically extremely vulnerable staff and children.

- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 updated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021](#)
- [Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak updated 19<sup>th</sup> July](#) Updated to remove pre-Step 4 guidance, amend clinically extremely vulnerable information and publish in HTML.
- [Development Matters](#) an updated version of Development Matters – **updated 20 July 2021**

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- [Use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care - updated 20 July 2021](#)

When to use PPE, including for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), in education, childcare and children's social care settings for COVID-19. Updated to remove Step 3 guidance and update Step 4 guidance to remove (applies from Step 4) from the title.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

**Carolyn Terry**

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