

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

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries
Sent: 02 August 2021 05:47
Cc: Free Entitlement Funding Queries <FEEDQueries@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: Please Read - Covid-19 Update 2 August 2021

Dear All

There has been an update from the DfE on changes to the lateral flow device self-test kits, which is set out below

We have had some queries on whether the DfE Attendance Survey is continuing over the summer holiday period – for the time being the DfE has taken the decision to stop this data collection. We will let you know should the DfE decide to reinstate this

Thank you to everyone that has or is continuing to claim the food vouchers for eligible children. Just as a reminder that 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.

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

Updates from the DfE

Information for schools, colleges and early years settings on the changes to lateral flow device (LFD) self-test kits for testing at home

From Monday 2 August, the types of LFD self-test kits you receive for at-home testing may be different. NHS Test and Trace are introducing a new type of test, Acon-Flowflex, which requires nasal only swabs. A throat swab is not needed. The test returns a result in 20 minutes.

From August you should expect to receive Innova (throat and nose swabs), Orient Gene or Acon-Flowflex (nasal only) self-test kits. The instructions on how to use each of these types of test kits for use at home can be found in the test kit packaging. Schools and colleges will continue to receive Orient Gene test kits for use onsite in ATS. Instructions on how to use these kits can be found on the [document sharing platform](#).

You should continue to use any self-test kits you have in stock and only place an order for additional test kits through the online reordering solution when your stocks are running low. This includes using any remaining Innova test kits including those supplied in packs of 3.

The window for secondary schools and colleges to reorder test kits for the new academic year closes on Saturday 31 July. Deliveries of these orders will be fulfilled at the start of the autumn term and may contain Acon-Flowflex test kits. Nurseries and any other secondary or further education settings which remain open over the summer may start to receive these new types of test kits during August. Updated guidance on how to use these test kits will be uploaded on the document sharing platform by Monday 2 August.

Information for schools, colleges and early years settings on hosting initial teacher training (ITT) trainees in the 2021/22 academic year

COVID-19 has impacted some schools' capacity to engage with teacher training provision. ITT providers are looking for new partners to support their trainees from the 2021/22 academic year. ITT trainees can play a significant role in supporting your school and you can agree your preferred level of involvement with your ITT provider.

To support links between ITT providers and school partners as they continue to recover from COVID disruption, we invite schools to email itt.policy@education.gov.uk and we will share your details with your local ITT providers where possible.

Although primary and secondary schools will form the majority of partnerships, colleges, early years settings and other educational settings also play an important role in delivery and may still be able to engage in ITT.

You can also identify providers to contact directly, using the [find courses by location or by training provider](#) service.

Should you no longer wish to receive these emails, please email the FEEE mailbox (feeequeries@essex.gov.uk) and we will remove you from the distribution list.

Best wishes.

Carolyn

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