



This is your email to keep you updated on the government's response to COVID-19. If you have colleagues who would like to receive this email directly, please ask them to use this [subscription form](#).

Today's email includes:

- a reminder for all education and childcare settings about the changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19, from Monday 17 January
- information for primary and secondary schools about the Schools Infection Survey (SIS2)
- information about free peer-to-peer support for schools and colleges on using technology

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17 January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of

day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

The new rules also apply to people who are already isolating – so if someone was already isolating before Monday 17 January, they can take LFD tests on day 5 and 6 and if they are both negative and they have no temperature they can end their isolation.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available.

COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey (SIS2) taking place during the current academic year

Primary and secondary schools will continue to be invited to take part in the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey, your ongoing participation is hugely valuable to us. This important study is vital to understand more about the impact of COVID-19 amongst children and young people.

ONS are asking selected schools to take part in a programme of in-school repeat antibody testing, to find out if pupils have antibodies against COVID-19. In addition, all parents and secondary school pupils will be invited to complete online questionnaires which will collect information about the longer-

term impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's health. Schools have been specifically chosen to be part of the study to provide data that can be compared to the schools in your region, and England as a whole.

If you would like further information about the study, please contact the study team on COVID-19@ons.gov.uk.

Free peer-to-peer support for schools and colleges on using technology

The [EdTech Demonstrator](#) programme is currently offering technology support for schools and colleges to deliver remote education. Schools and colleges can [submit a request](#) for support, and drop-in surgeries are taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which schools and colleges can [book in advance](#).

The information below has not changed since our last update

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice service are available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education and childcare settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education and childcare providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#)

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