

Dear Colleagues,

To keep you all up-to-date with the latest information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), and help protect yourself and others, we will be issuing regular updates.

The dedicated COVID-19 information area on the HES portal contains all communications and updates from the Local Authority and central government relating to COVID-19. All early years providers and schools can access this area by using the following link: <http://hes.org.uk/covid19>.

The items in this update are intended for all education providers - where the guidance is only relevant to a particular phase of education or type of provider, this is indicated.

Communications with Parents/Carers

Attached to this Update is a letter to parents/carers from the Local Authority, which contains some important Public Health advice related to the recent easing of restrictions, and regular testing. Can this please be cascaded via your usual communication methods.

Year 6/7 Transition (Schools)

Attached is an updated document which summarises the various transition activities the secondary schools are planning to undertake this year. The previously circulated document omitted the activity of Coopers' Company and Coborn School.

May 2021 School Meal Holiday Scheme

Havering is continuing to provide support to families via the School Meal Holiday Scheme as it did during previous holiday periods. The scheme is a way of providing funds to ensure that eligible families can purchase food over the holidays to replace the meals a child would have received during a school day.

Eligible families can apply to receive £15 per child to support with meals to cover the May half-term holiday.

The application window will open from Monday 17th May at 9am, closing on Monday 24th May at 5pm. Families who received payment via the scheme previously do not need to reapply and will automatically receive the funds into their nominated bank account by Thursday 20th May.



Schools and early year's providers are asked to encourage and support eligible families who have not taken advantage of this opportunity previously, and a range of visuals are attached to support you with this. Eligible families who apply via the scheme to cover the May half-term holiday period and have not received money in the past, are expected to receive payments by the Tuesday 1st June. If further eligibility checks are required, this may delay payment.

For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Further Guidance

All of the Department for Education's [Coronavirus guidance for educational settings](#) can be found on [GOV.UK](#). This includes specific guidance on implementing protective measures, answers to frequently asked questions for schools and guidance on issues such as remote education, providing free school meals and attendance, among other things.

DfE coronavirus helpline

Telephone 0800 046 8687

If you have a query about Coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to schools and other educational establishments, and children's social care, in England contact the DfE helpline.

Lines are open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends. If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.