

Updates following the announcement on living with COVID-19 – Department for Education email

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April. Most of the COVID-19 specific guidance for education and childcare settings will now be withdrawn from GOV.UK.

Guidance specific to education and childcare that settings should now refer to includes:

- [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) health protection in education and childcare settings](#)
- [DfE emergency planning and response](#)
- [DfE good estate management for schools](#)

New and updated UKHSA guidance for the general population, which will also be relevant to education and childcare settings, includes:

- [guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19](#)
- [living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)
- [ventilation of indoor spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections](#)
- [COVID-19 guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk](#)

You can access a [webinar](#) giving an overview from DfE and UKHSA officials on the [changes announced on Tuesday 29 March](#), that come into effect from today, Friday 1 April, and what this means in practice for education, childcare and children's social care settings.

We are aware that some education settings are currently experiencing high levels of staff absence. Where a setting is facing acute disruption, including due to workforce absence, it can continue to request an [Ofsted deferral](#). Ofsted will continue to look carefully and sensitively at each request and will make their decision on a case-by-case basis.

We also wanted to draw your attention to the [education staff wellbeing charter](#), which is a declaration of support for, and set of commitments to, the wellbeing and mental health of everyone working in education. The charter is co-created with the education sector and sets out the shared commitments to promote and protect the wellbeing of staff.