

Royal Greenwich – a great place to grow up!



Childcare Options
Royal Greenwich

Welcome to the weekly edition of the e-bulletin during these very difficult and challenging times. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for the critical and essential work that you and your staff team are doing in enabling those families most in need and those who are critical to the Covid 19 response, to continue with childcare provision, where possible.

We recognise that many of you and your families are experiencing a period of uncertainty and we are here to share information, respond to the challenges of the sector, provide support, advice and guidance and constructively facilitate some difficult conversations where they arise.

Although the team are working remotely from home and are currently unable to access the duty line, please send an email with the nature of your query, comment or information and we will return your call immediately.

Childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk is fully covered from 9am to 5pm including through the lunch period

Stay well, stay safe

From the Early Years & Childcare Team

In this edition

- ★ Coronavirus information and government advice links and summaries
- ★ 30 hours and headcount
- ★ Home learning environment
- ★ Keeping Children Safe



STAYING IN TOUCH

PARENTS

Advise critical worker parents to contact Families Information Service for vacancies where you have staff shortages (or illness) and need to close – FIS@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

PROVIDERS

To update open/close status and number of priority children on roll and attending, offer of support to critical worker parents and carers, or to support vulnerable children following closure, please contact Early Years & Childcare childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Collection

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings

Guidance and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students.

Published 20 March 2020

Last updated 1 April 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Education](#), [Cabinet Office](#), and [Public Health England](#)

Throughout this edition, there are some key links to Coronavirus advice and guidance from the Government and the NHS which have implications for your provision. Please click directly on the links or copy and paste the links into your browser.

The situation is rapidly changing so you are strongly advised to *keep up to date* with announcements as they are issued and note that more detail, information and clarification is being shared following key announcements. The below is a summary and you are strongly advised to *read the guidance in full on the government website*

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Key Document Links

1. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) 27 March
2. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): school closures](#) 31 March
3. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): early years and childcare closures](#) 1 April
4. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#) 1 April
5. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): maintaining educational provision](#) 19 March
6. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](#) 24 March
7. [Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](#) 31 March
8. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): free school meals guidance](#) 31 March
9. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): maintaining further education provision](#) 23 March
10. [COVID-19: guidance for educational settings](#) 26 March

Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): early years and childcare closures

Updated 1 April 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

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[Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#)

[Food](#)

[Ofsted](#)

[Childminders](#)

[Holidays](#)

- Information on the Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- Clarification on whether settings are still covered by their public liability insurance
- A new section clarifying the expectation on early years settings remaining open over Easter for vulnerable children and children of critical workers
- A new section on hub provision
- Clarification on whether someone with a paediatric first aid certificate still needs to be on site
- Clarification of DBS requirements

This guidance is summarised below and should be read alongside documents linked here as well as the business support package

- [implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings](#)
- [critical workers](#)
- [vulnerable children and young people](#)

Government recognition of your vital role you in the response to Covid 19

“Those who work in the education and childcare sector rightly take their place next to our NHS staff and other critical workers as central to our efforts in battling this virus.

Nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and settings of childcare for school-age children around the country are taking the lead in supporting families through this difficult time. We are keenly aware that the extraordinary measures that have been taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) present an unprecedented challenge for childcare settings as well as the communities they serve.

We appreciate the selfless dedication that childcare staff demonstrate in their work every single day. During this difficult time, we are asking you to go further still so that we can collectively address the challenges we face. You are vital to the country’s response to this crisis, and we offer our full support and gratitude during this difficult time.

As this crisis progresses, we will aim to provide you with as much certainty and flexibility as possible and will do all we can to support the vital service you are providing. This is a fast-moving situation and we ask you to work with us as we put in place the advice and support you need.”

Summary - Early Years and Childcare Closures Guidance

Read guidance in full and keep checking for updates

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

- Early years and childcare settings are closed except for children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and cannot be safely cared for at home.
- Government is asking all childcare settings, who are responsible for caring for vulnerable children, and the children of workers critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to remain open, where possible. This may not be possible for all settings where severe staff shortages due to self-isolation or sickness and then to work with local authority to determine the best way to support priority children including merging with other settings
- Applies to all Ofsted-registered childcare settings including childminders, wraparound childcare and before- and after- school and holiday care
- Expect providers to be flexible and work together with local authority to stay open wherever possible, agree the provision needed locally to support the needs identified, coordinate where there is high demand or severe staff shortages, and keep local authority updated about priority children and support data collation
- Where setting unable to stay open, important transition information on day one for alternative provider to include emergency contact details, dietary requirements and medical needs to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the child

- Government working hard to mitigate the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on all parts of our society, including individuals and businesses. Providers to be reasonable and balanced in dealing with parents given uncertainty they will be facing too.
- Early years entitlement funding to be fully paid together with range of measures and additional business support to protect significant proportion of provider's income. Government keeping what further support businesses may require under close review.
- Settings may make optional charge for consumables including meals as per existing guidance but to consider impact of charges on disadvantaged families.
- If settings are following government guidance, they should still be covered by their public liability insurance; however to be certain, check with insurance companies.
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which sets the standards that schools and childcare settings must meet for the learning, development and care of children under 5, applies in full (EYFS profile cancelled). In these exceptional circumstances, the priority at this time is keeping children safe and well cared for. Detailed curriculum or teaching approaches are not prescribed – settings have scope to tailor these according to what is appropriate to the children in their care at this time.
- EYFS staff to child ratios may be varied if necessary as exceptional temporary circumstance. However, remain responsible for ensuring the safety and security of children in care.
- Where open, to be flexible as possible for critical workers who work shifts or atypical hours
- Where staff shortages work with local authority to identify how appropriate provision can be put in place – eg pool staff with another setting, take on qualified DBS checked staff from another registered childminders which have closed, or invite childminders 50/50 registration to work them.
- Settings must obtain criminal records checks for new staff and volunteers – however they can care for children under supervision by someone who has a DBS check pending arrival of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Under no circumstances can an unchecked member of staff be left alone with children.
- Where staff already engaging in regulated activity, have appropriate DBS check, and provider has assurance from current employer, there is no expectation that a new DBS check should be obtained for them to temporarily move to another setting to support the care of priority children
- Only registered childcare provision to be offered to critical worker parents - Ofsted as regulator will consider taking legal enforcement action against unregistered childcare
- Under existing arrangements, childminders are able to offer 50% care on non-domestic premises
- Childminders who do not already have approval to work up to 50% will need to seek approval from Ofsted, after seeking initial support from local authority. If childminders have the capacity and there is a local need, they could help support with staff shortages in centre-based childcare provision.

- 3 or more childminders (or mix of up to 3 childminders and assistants) can already work together in the same domestic premises. 4 or more childminders will need register with Ofsted together to offer care for priority children on the same domestic premises.
- At least one person who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present. If requalification training is prevented for reasons associated directly with coronavirus, validity extended up to 3 months – applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020.
- Where stay open – follow PHE measures to limit risk of infection spread eg handwashing
- Work with local authority to monitor the welfare of vulnerable children who are not attending provision and other children they might wish to keep in touch with for safeguarding purposes
- Suspension of routine Ofsted inspections since 17 March 2020. Safeguarding responsibilities of settings have not changed, and Ofsted inspections triggered by safeguarding concerns will continue.
- Cared for children can play outdoors in private space while following social distancing guidance *as far as possible* and avoid public spaces
- Hungry Little Minds and BBC Tiny Happy People features tips and practical activities that parents can do with their children at home to support early learning – settings to continue sharing resources with parents

Vulnerable Children

- Social worker - child protection plan, looked after (children in our care), child in need
- Education, health and care (EHC) plans – to be risk-assessed in consultation – do they need a childcare place or can they safely have their needs met at home?
- Leaders and designated safeguarding leads know who their most vulnerable children are and have flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of social care

Eligibility for free school meals, the early years pupil premium, or the disadvantaged 2-year-old offer should not, in and of themselves, be determining factors in assessing vulnerability.

- Expectation that vulnerable children will attend their early years setting, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that puts them at severe risk.
- Where a parent does not want to bring in child, the social worker and setting should explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and talk through their concerns about the risk of contracting the virus following advice of Public Health England.
- Follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care for their child and does not attend or take up their childcare place and notify social worker.

More information below or here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Critical Workers

- Settings to speak with parents/carers to identify who requires a place - if it proves necessary, simple evidence such as work ID badge or payslip (*not all employers are issuing letters*). If do not agree definition of critical worker, speak to should speak to their local authority.
- At least one parent/carer who is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response can attend

More information below or here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Funding and Business Support Package for Childcare Settings

Chancellor of the Exchequer announcements

- Local authority to continue to pay for early years entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Private registered childcare settings providing EYFS eligible for a business rates holiday for one year 2020 to 2021
- Nurseries in receipt of small business rate relief to benefit from small business grant funding of £10,000
- Nurseries who are eligible for a charitable status relief to benefit from small business grant funding of £10,000 and will pay no business rates in 2020 to 2021
- Some settings operate from shared spaces which may now benefit from a 100% rates relief. Government strongly encourage those shared spaces to reflect any business rates saving in their rent charges.
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme means that for employees who are not working but kept on payroll, the government will contribute 80% of each worker's wages of up to £2,500, backdated to 1 March 2020. Settings can access this scheme while continuing to be paid the early entitlements funding via local authority
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme for those who are self-employed (eg childminders) or members of a partnership and have lost income due to coronavirus. The scheme allows individuals to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for 3 months. HMRC will contact individuals who are eligible and invite them to apply online.
- For the self-employed (including childminders), the minimum income floor will also be temporarily relaxed, meaning Universal Credit can be accessed at a rate to match statutory sick pay (SSP).
- Business Interruption Loan Scheme will be interest-free for 12 months, an increase from 6.
- VAT payments due with VAT returns between now and the end June 2020 will be deferred. UK VAT registered businesses will not need make those payments until March 2021.

- Government to make changes to enable UK companies undergoing a rescue or restructure process to continue trading to help them avoid insolvency. This includes temporarily suspending wrongful trading provisions retrospectively from 1 March 2020 for 3 months for company directors so they can keep their business going without the threat of personal liability.
- Working tax credit has been increased by £1,000 a year.
- The government announced a £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit basic element and an increase in the Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants so that it covers the cheapest third of local rents.

For more information, see below and here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Critical Worker List

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home must be.

Key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents must also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Where a parent's work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or they work in one of the critical sectors and cannot keep child safe at home then those children will be prioritised for education provision.

Below are some examples – read full list at above link:

1. **Health and social care** - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, volunteers; specialist staff required to maintain sector; supply chain - producers and distributors of medicines, medical and personal protective equipment
2. **Education and childcare** - childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, and specialist education professionals
3. **Key public services** - justice system, religious staff, charities and key frontline services, management of the deceased, public service broadcasting journalists
4. **Local and national government** - administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery and essential public services eg payment of benefits
5. **Food and other necessary goods** - food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, hygienic and veterinary medicines
6. **Public safety and national security** – eg police, Ministry of Defence, fire and rescue service employees, support staff, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff
7. **Transport** - air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport, supply chains

8. **Utilities, communication and financial services** - financial services provision eg workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure, the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector, key staff in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications eg network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services, postal services payments providers and waste disposal sectors

Worker should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service

Please note not all employers will provide a letter and ID passes and pay slips will be sufficient evidence



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Vulnerable Children

Children who have a social worker

- child protection plan
- looked after by the local authority – **children in our care**
- child in need s. 17 Children Act 1989

Education providers may also want to support other children who are vulnerable where they are able to do so. To work with local authorities to help identify the children who most need support at this time. Leaders and designated safeguarding leads know who their most vulnerable children are and will have the flexibility to offer a place to those on the edges of receiving children's social care support.*

**Eligibility for free school meals, the early years pupil premium, or the disadvantaged 2-year-old offer should not, in and of themselves, be determining factors in assessing vulnerability.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

- There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at severe risk.
- Where a parent does not want to bring their child and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and education setting should explore the reasons for this, directly with the parent and talk through anxieties with the parent following the advice set out by Public Health England.

Non-attendance – “ensuring that vulnerable children remain protected is a top priority for the government.”

- agreeing with families whether children in need should be attending education provision
- follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend who does not
- follow up with any parent or carer who has arranged care and subsequently do not attend
- confirm emergency contact numbers
- where a vulnerable child does not take up their place or discontinues, the education setting to notify social worker
- Social workers to continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period and to support these children to access this provision
- Education providers to ensure they have a process in place to check on the welfare of any child in need who does not attend on any day

Easter holidays

Education is a protective factor for vulnerable children and we want to make sure that protection remains in place during the Easter holidays given the current circumstances. We are asking providers, wherever possible, to maintain provision for children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response and vulnerable children over the Easter holidays

Children and young people up to age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plan

- to be risk-assessed provider, local authority and parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home

Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

They will need to consider a number of different risks to each individual, including:

- potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This must be on an individual basis with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- the risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the individual’s parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely
- the potential impact to the individual’s wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered

The government expects most children and young people with EHC plans will fall into the following categories:

- children and young people who would be at significant risk if their education, health and care provision and placement did not continue, namely those who could not safely be supported at home. This may include those with profound and multiple learning difficulties, and those receiving significant levels of personal care support.
- children and young people whose needs can be met at home, namely those who are not receiving personal care from their educational setting, or whose limited need for personal care can be met in their family home.

During this outbreak, educational settings, local authorities, health bodies, parents and young people with SEND should work together to respond pragmatically and flexibly to each individual's needs.

- No EHCP issued yet for child - then they will not automatically fall within the definition of 'vulnerable children' for the purposes of attendance at an education setting during the COVID-19 outbreak. However, setting and local authority have discretion to undertake a risk assessment and offer support if that is needed.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

This advice seeks to support staff working in schools and childcare settings to focus on measures they can put in place to help limit risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings. It should be read in conjunction with the [advice](#) on [school closures](#), [vulnerable children](#) and [childcare](#). This advice will be updated as the situation evolves.

The number of social interactions in the childcare environment will be reduced as there are fewer children attending, social distancing (as far as possible) and good hand hygiene being practiced

To help ensure that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, education and childcare settings that remain open should:

- tell children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to visit the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- consider how children arrive at the r childcare setting and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport
- ensure class sizes reflect the numbers of staff available and are kept as small as possible
- stagger lunch times, break times and the movement of children around the setting to reduce large groups of children gathering
- discourage parents from gathering at entrances
- try to follow the social distancing guidelines - with very young children will be harder to maintain.

Staff should implement the above measures as far as they are able, whilst ensuring children are kept safe and well cared for within their settings.

- think about how the above can be implemented in your setting
- make sure anyone who is feeling ill stays at home
- ensure all staff and children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently, and are encouraged not to touch their face, while using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and using bins for tissue waste. If children or young people have trouble washing their hands, ensure help is available
- inform parents and communities about the measures that you are taking and get their help to implement them
- increase cleaning of surfaces, including tables and handles, and within toilet blocks adhering to guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings
- for children and young people with an EHC plan, work with the local authority as well as with parents to decide how best to continue supporting these children to stay healthy

Guidance

COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings

This guidance covers the cleaning of environments in the community.

Published 26 February 2020

Last updated 19 March 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Public Health England](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

General Health Advice and Guidance



Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

[Check the NHS website if you have symptoms](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do.

 **Use the 111 coronavirus service**

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Babies and children

Call 111 for advice if you're worried about a baby or child.

If they seem very unwell, are getting worse or you think there's something seriously wrong, call 999.

Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

Guidance

Full guidance on staying at home and away from others

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

Published 23 March 2020
From: [Cabinet Office](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

Guidance

COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Published 12 March 2020

Last updated 23 March 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Public Health England](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Guidance

COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people

Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK, including children, and protecting older people and vulnerable people.

Published 16 March 2020

Last updated 23 March 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Public Health England](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>



Other things you can do to stop the infection spreading

Do

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ stay 2 metres (3 steps) away from other people, if you need to go outside

Don't

- ✗ do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Self-isolation if you or someone you live with has symptoms

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Do

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often, for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ clean objects and surfaces you touch often (like door handles, kettles and phones) using your regular cleaning products
- ✓ clean a shared bathroom each time you use it, for example by wiping the surfaces you have touched

Don't

- ✗ do not share towels, including hand towels and tea towels



Guidance

Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

Updated 24 March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT payments for 3 months
- deferring Self-Assessment payments until January 2021
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs)
- 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme where experiencing temporary financial distress due to coronavirus

Key Business Support Sections

with web links - click or copy and paste into your browser

1. [Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)
2. [Support for businesses through deferring VAT payments](#)
3. [Support for businesses through deferring Self-Assessment payments on account](#)
4. [Support for self-employed through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme](#)
5. [Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees](#)

6. [Support for nursery businesses that pay business rates](#)
7. [Support for businesses that pay little or no business rates](#)
8. [Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#)
9. [Support for businesses paying tax: Time to Pay service](#)
10. [Commercial insurance](#)
11. [Protection from eviction for commercial tenants](#)

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is a temporary scheme open to all UK employers for at least 3 months starting from 1 March 2020

- Employers can claim for 80% of furloughed employees' (employees on a leave of absence) usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month, plus the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and minimum automatic enrolment employer pension contributions on that wage. Employers can use this scheme anytime during this period.
- The scheme is open to all UK employers that had created and started a [PAYE](#) payroll scheme on 28 February 2020.
- [Claim for wage costs through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.](#)
- If your business needs short term cash flow support, you may be eligible for a [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#).

Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

- This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.
- [Claim a grant through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme](#)

Sick pay to employees - bringing forward legislation to allow small-and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. The eligibility criteria for the scheme will be as follows:

- this refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19
- employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020
- employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP, but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note. If evidence is required by an employer, those with symptoms of coronavirus can get an isolation note from [NHS 111 online](#) and those who live with someone that has symptoms can get a note from the [NHS website](#)
- eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of SSP to those staying at home comes into force

- the government will work with employers over the coming months to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible

Nursery businesses that pay business rates

- Business rates holiday for nurseries in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.
- Properties that will benefit from the relief are those occupied by providers on Ofsted's Early Years Register and wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- There is no action for you. However, local authorities may have to reissue your bill to provide this support. They will do this as soon as possible.
- You can estimate the business rate charge using the [business rates calculator](#).
- Further guidance for local authorities is available in the [nursery discount guidance](#).

Businesses that pay little or no business rates

- Additional Small Business Grant Scheme funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBRR) and tapered relief. This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.
- You are eligible if you are a business that occupies property and you are receiving small business rate relief or rural rate relief as of 11 March. Local authority will write to you if you are eligible for this grant

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme supports SMEs with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years. The government will also make a Business Interruption Payment to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees, so smaller businesses will benefit from no upfront costs and lower initial repayments.

- The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to pre-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The scheme will be delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the government-owned British Business Bank.
- There are [40 accredited lenders](#) able to offer the scheme, including all the major banks.
- [Find out if you're eligible and how to apply](#).

Commercial insurance

Most commercial insurance policies are unlikely to cover pandemics or unspecified notifiable diseases, such as COVID-19. However, those businesses which have an insurance policy that covers government ordered closure and pandemics or government ordered closure and unspecified notifiable disease should be able to make a claim (subject to the terms and conditions of their policy).

Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers.

Notifiable diseases

- Notifiable diseases are certain infectious diseases that registered medical practitioners have a statutory duty to notify the 'proper officer' at their local council or local health protection team about when they come across a suspected case.
- The government keeps an updated [list of notifiable diseases](#). On 5 March 2020, the government added COVID-19 to its list of notifiable diseases.
- Many insurers use diseases on this list as triggers for the activation or exclusion of insurance cover. For example, insurers' policies that cover notifiable diseases will typically only cover a specific subset of notifiable diseases (such as Cholera or Anthrax) that the insurer will reference in the policy documentation. These policies will exclude any notifiable disease not on the insurers list, as well as future/unknown diseases (such as COVID-19). The price that the insurer charges for the policy is modelled against the risk posed by this set list of diseases.

Unspecified notifiable diseases

- Some businesses will have purchased add-ons for their insurance that cover for 'unspecified notifiable diseases'. These policies effectively cover any disease listed as a notifiable disease, enabling the business to claim for losses for all notifiable diseases as well as from diseases that are unknown at the point the policy is written.
- The effect of the government adding COVID-19 to its list of notifiable diseases is to ensure that businesses with unspecified notifiable disease cover are able to make a claim – subject to the terms and conditions in their policy. For example, someone infected with COVID-19 may need to have been on the premises.

Government ordered closure

- Insurers have agreed that this advice is sufficient for businesses covered for COVID-19 losses to make a claim (if the only barrier to them making a claim was a lack of clarity on whether the government had ordered businesses to close).
- However, most businesses' commercial insurance policies (including for denial of access) are unlikely to offer cover for COVID-19. Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers.

Protection from eviction for commercial tenants

- Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of COVID-19 will be protected from eviction.
- These measures will mean no business will automatically forfeit their lease and be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment up until 30 June.
- There is the option for the government to extend this period if needed.
- This is not a rental holiday. All commercial tenants will still be liable for the rent. Commercial tenants are protected from eviction if they are unable to pay rent.



BUSINESS SUPPORT

[Home](#) [Coronavirus Financial Support](#) [Coronavirus Business Advice](#) [Latest Information](#)

FAQs

You can find more help and advice on this link <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/faqs/>



legislation.gov.uk

Coronavirus Act 2020

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/contents/enacted/data.htm>

- Power to temporarily close premises used for childcare - applies to all Ofsted registered provision
- Power to require premises to remain open, re-open or change their provision (for example, opening for longer hours) – applies to all Ofsted registered provision except childminders
- Power to disapply certain elements of childcare legislation, particularly in relation to sufficiency and the provision of information.

The first two bullet points have the ability to be devolved from the Secretary of State for Education to local authorities, and can apply at local or national levels. The Department for Education is also considering flexibilities around the EYFS through secondary legislation.

All powers within the Coronavirus Act will fall after two years in recognition of the fact they are to help tackle the pandemic only.



What happens about 30 hour codes and funding in Summer 2020?

Early years entitlements funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds will continue to pay providers for the whole of the Summer term – for all PVI and Childminders there will an initial 50% advance payment based on Spring 2020 claim and the balance of 50% to be paid on your adjusted return of the pre-populated headcount form which you will receive in about two weeks. Please adjust pupils and state whether they are on roll or in attendance and then return as your final claim.

All 30 hour codes should have a **valid start date** that is no later than **31 March 2019**

All codes must usually be verified prior to take up of a place.

*****Exceptional circumstances: any valid codes which have not been verified by the provider with the local authority and where application date and age criteria are met will be verified by the LA on submission for this term *****

Existing and new 30 hours codes for critical workers will be considered on individual circumstances.

Child's Date of birth	When parents can check eligibility and get code	When the child becomes eligible
Between 1 April and 31 August	Between 1 April and 31 August	1 September following their third birthday
Between 1 September and 31 December	Between 1 September and 31 December	1 January following their third birthday
Between 1 January and 31 March	Between 1 January and 31 March	1 April following their third birthday

Eligibility Requirements

1. A child will be eligible for 30 hours at the beginning of the term after they have turned 3
2. Both parents or sole parent must meet the income criteria *
3. **All codes will be verified by** the local authority for the Summer 2020 term due to exceptional circumstances
4. The child has not yet reached statutory school age (the term after they turn 5) nor attends reception class in school



www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

HMRC Helpline

0300 123 4097

Parents - Families Information Service fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Providers - Early Years & Childcare Service childcare-support@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Terms	Term dates 2019 to 2020	Funded weeks
Summer 2020	Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May 2020 (except May Day bank holiday on Friday 8 May) Half-term holiday: Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020 (spring bank holiday on 25 May) Monday 1 June to Tuesday 21 July 2020	less 2 INSET Days 12 weeks
Terms	Term dates 2020 to 2021	Funded weeks
Autumn 2020	Term time: Wednesday 2 September to Friday 23 October 2020 Half-term holiday: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020 Term time: Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2020 Christmas and New Year holiday: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021.	less 3 INSET Days 14 weeks
Spring 2021	Term time: Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2021 Half-term holiday: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021 Term time: Monday 22 February to Wednesday 31 March 2021 Easter holiday: Thursday 1 April to Friday 16 April 2021	12 weeks
Summer 2021	Term time: Monday 19 April to Friday 28 May 2021 (except May Day bank holiday on 3 May). Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021 (spring bank holiday on 31 May). Term time: Monday 7 June to Friday 23 July 2021	less 2 INSET days 12 weeks
	Term dates include INSET dates	195 days 39 weeks
	5 INSET days over the year for training	190 days / 38 weeks

Summer 12 weeks	Funded Entitlements 15 / 30 hours per week x 38 weeks 570 / 1140 hours per year
Autumn 14 weeks	
Spring 12 weeks	
Term Time	
School holidays (Bank Holiday in RED)	
5 INSET days: option to take any time during term	
HEADCOUNT / CENSUS DAY	
Eyc-funding@royalgreenwich.gov.uk	

Summer 2020

Apr-20							May-20							Jun-20							Jul-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				

**Early Years and Childcare page now available on Royal Greenwich website –
Tell us what you want to see on it.**



Home | Education, schools and nurseries | Nurseries and early learning

Sea

Early Years team information (for providers)



Coronavirus COVID-19: Latest updates

Many council services are reduced or disrupted. Check our coronavirus page for the most up-to-date info
[Read the latest and sign up for updates.](#)

In this section



Early years and childcare information for professionals



Key information and resource links for early years and childcare providers

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200283/nurseries_and_early_learning/2183/early_years_team_information_for_providers

Keeping Children Safe:

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, DfE have asked schools (and providers) to review their child protection procedures.

Providers are advised to add an addendum to existing procedures to address the current situation and keep under review. Once updated it should be shared with all staff and volunteers.

All settings should still aim to have a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead on site, but where this is not possible alternative arrangements are to be made, such as ensuring the DSL is available via phone or online video.

Whereby a DSL cannot be on site, a senior member of staff at the setting should take responsibility for safeguarding arrangements. The name and contact details of the DSL should be shared with all staff and volunteers.

Previously trained DSL's whose refresher training is not up to date will still be able to continue with their duties at this time and source training as soon as viable – perhaps an alternative to do online training.

Settings should only be providing care to children of critical workers who are unable to be safely taken care of at home and vulnerable children. Vulnerable children are children who have a social worker due to an EHC plan, Child in Need plan, Child Protection plan or a looked after child (children in our care).

If a vulnerable child is attending an alternative setting due to theirs being closed, the child's key worker if not furloughed – in which case, the leader or manager, should aim to have regular contact with staff at the alternative setting to provide support and guidance via phone or online video.

In the event a vulnerable child is not attending a setting at all, the child's key worker to notify social worker or the local authority, aim to have regular contact with the child and family /carer via phone and online video.

The NSPCC logo consists of the letters 'NSPCC' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

Talking to a child worried about coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health>



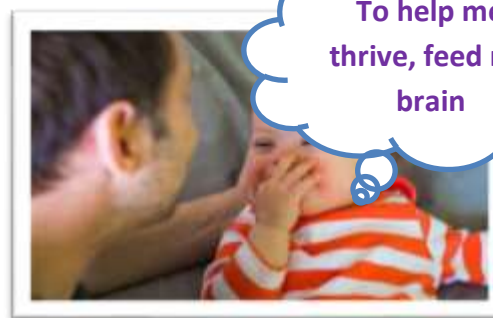
Online safety at home

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home>

Home Learning Environment

How you support and encourage parents will build the knowledge and skills in children for what comes next

Research has found by the age of five, children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are starting school 19 months behind their better-off peers, and struggle to catch up from then on.



What providers can do

- think of creative ways to work in partnership with parents.
- reach as many parents and carers as possible, to co-create an environment where talking, playing and sharing books is encouraged.
- support parents to be more involved with their children's learning

Simple activities can be make all the difference

- Tell with parents/carers about 'everyday moments' where there is an opportunity to use language with their children
- Simple recipe sheets with pictures and words so children can be involved in cooking.
- Encourage parents to create a tote bag with activities or story sack to go along with their favourite book
- Encourage parents to create a basket of opportunities or brain boxes with interesting objects
- Adventure bear who goes exploring with the family around the house and has their adventures recorded
- Pick a song, story and craft that's the theme each week – look out for ideas next week

Hungry Little Minds

Encourage parents and carers to chat, play and read more with their children and help set them to prepare for school and beyond

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Tiny Happy People

Ideas for simple activities, visuals, facts and knowledge to support in children's learning at different ages and stage.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>