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16 August 2021

Childcare Provision Notice – COVID GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT THE SAFE OPERATION OF SETTINGS

To all registered childcare providers

This is a very quick update to help you prepare for the start of a new and hopefully more settled academic year.

We issued an update on our suite of COVID-19 safety guidance for ELC, childminding and school age childcare settings in a provider notice on 4 August. Since then we've been asked to clarify some aspects of that guidance. We have therefore further updated the guidance as follows:

- to clarify what to do when someone identified as a close contact has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days (see section Staying vigilant and responding to COVID-19 symptoms);
- to add a link to a [‘warn and inform’ information sheet](#) that settings should send to parents/carers and staff when there's a positive case in the setting (see section on Test and Protect);
- to revise the section on how to deal with outbreaks and case management to make clearer the roles and responsibilities; and
- to clarify that in level 0 and below groups can be mixed when outside, if this allows settings to maximise time spent outdoors (see section on limiting children's contacts)

Links to revised guidance are below.

[Early Learning and Childcare](#)
[Childminding Services](#)
[School Aged Childcare](#)

We also explained in the provider notice of 4 August that there's a renewed focus on the importance of ventilation in childcare settings to reduce the risk that the virus could be present in concentrated amounts. We are therefore working with local authorities (via ADES and COSLA) to ensure that all day care of children services have access to CO2 monitors to help them assess their areas for ventilation issues by mid-October (subject to any supply issues).

The primary role for local authorities will be to purchase devices for all daycare of children services in their area. Local authority teams will work with providers known to the authority wherever possible. However daycare of children services that are not funded to provide statutory ELC will be asked to contact their local authority to arrange provision of devices.

Local authorities who have, so far, provided us with contact details are listed in the table below. We hope to share a complete list shortly.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	CONTACT ADDRESS
Aberdeen City Council	ecsassets@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Aberdeenshire	earlyyears@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Angus	ELC@angus.gov.uk
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	education.resources@cne-siar.gov.uk . Questions/queries to jmackay1p@gnes.net
Dundee City	educationcovid19@dundeecity.gov.uk
East Renfrewshire	Karen.Carmichael@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
Falkirk	cspropertyteam@falkirk.gov.uk
Fife	Stewart.Westwater@fife.gov.uk
Highland	ELCTeam@highland.gov.uk
Moray	Jennie.Ordonez@moray.gov.uk
North Ayrshire	earlylearningchildcare@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Orkney Islands	education.leisure@orkney.gov.uk
Renfrewshire	elc@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Scottish Borders	EarlyYearsTeamEd@scotborders.gov.uk
South Lanarkshire	EarlyYears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
West Dunbartonshire	Teresa.Devaney@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

I wish you all the very best for the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Passmore
Deputy Director, Early Learning and Childcare