

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Latest update

Early years and schools



Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following update with you ahead of half-term.

Thank you all so much for playing your part and helping to keep case rates of Covid-19 low in Hertfordshire. During half-term, and as restrictions ease more generally, it's more important than ever that we follow current guidance to help keep each other safe and our nurseries, schools and colleges free from outbreaks.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Reminder of some of the latest guidance from 17 May:

- *6 people, or two households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible) can now meet indoors and up to 30 people can gather outside*
- *If you are meeting with family and friends, the government is asking that you personally consider the risks associated with COVID-19 when deciding on things like wearing face coverings and social distancing for both you and your children*
- *Restaurants, pubs and cafes can reopen and so can indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, bowling alleys, museums and children's indoor play areas. All of these services will have COVID-secure measures in place, please encourage your children to follow the rules when out and about*

Travelling within the UK

If you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential (for work or education).

You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

Travelling internationally from England

There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to [countries or territories on the red or amber lists](#).

If you do need to travel to an Amber destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and;

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return
- **Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period**

Testing at home with Lateral Flow Devices (rapid tests)

During half-term you should continue to encourage children in year 7 and above to test and report their results as they have been in term time.

We would be grateful if you could ensure that children in year 7 and above take a rapid test on Sunday 6 June ahead of their return to school. Should they receive a positive result they must begin self-isolating immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test. Any student with symptoms of Covid-19 or feeling unwell should take a PCR test immediately and not attend school.

Parents and carers of children of school age are also encouraged to take regular rapid tests. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest.

Please only complete rapid tests on children in year 7 and above.

Support for families

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

We hope you enjoy half-term and remember – hands, face, space, fresh air and test. These key things will help to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Hertfordshire County Council

HAPpy summer holiday activity programme – deadline extended

We are still seeking providers for the summer holiday programme as part of the HAPpy Holiday offer to meet Hertfordshire's demand. We have extended the deadline for schools until the 4 June, if you would still like to apply for funding for your school please follow this link (please ignore that it says the deadline has closed): <https://www.hertscf.org.uk/holiday-activities-programme>

We are also very keen for schools to come forward to offer their venues for external providers to deliver over the summer, if you are able to support this instead, please send an email to haf@herts.ac.uk with the subject line 'HAF – school venue offer'. Summer is fast approaching and support from schools is invaluable in reaching as many children in receipt of benefit related free school meals as possible and making this summer an enriching and exciting one.

ACTION: Please ask students, staff and parents and carers to complete this survey about LFD testing

We would like your help to share a survey about testing with Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) with students in secondary school and above, all staff and parents and carers. We're keen to learn from people's experiences, how easy it is to do, are there any issues affecting uptake, what suggestions you might have for improving the process.

Your responses will help us to find the best way out of the pandemic. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday 28 May 2021.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/BA35VR/>

FSM supermarket vouchers for may half-term and what to do about newly eligible children

As you are aware the vouchers issued ahead of Easter were for a total of £45 per entitled child to cover both the Easter and May half-term holidays. There will be no separate voucher for May half-term unless the student has become eligible after the Easter holidays.

In these instances, settings can issue a £15 voucher via the HCC Portal on Edenred for those pupils that have newly become eligible up until the end of May half-term. The closing date for pupils to become eligible for the £15 voucher will be Sunday 6 June. Settings will then have up until Friday 11 June to issue the voucher by email to parents and carers for these pupils only.

Guidance for accessing the Hertfordshire Portal on Edenred to download vouchers can be found on the grid: <https://thegrid.org.uk/covid-19/key-documents-for-schools>

Update form Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (HCT) and the Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy (CYPT) Service

Please find a letter from HCT and CYPT attached updating on the current provision for therapies for any children and young people at your setting that require these services.

Latest cases

All the data for Hertfordshire cases can be found via the following link: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>

Click on United Kingdom and enter the local authority you want data on regarding cases. Hertfordshire specific information can also be found at: https://hcc-phei.shinyapps.io/covid19_public_dashboard/

Latest information and documents

REMINDER: There is a coronavirus specific area on the Grid which hosts all the official and most up to date versions of documents and any additional resources we refer to. Please only use this source for your information as documents and guidance are updated regularly and our health protection team need to work to the latest information. This information source was created to make it easy for headteachers to access all they need quickly and remotely when not on site. You will need to log in to access the Covid-19 information on the new Grid website. You will need to register for a login if you have not already done so. Details of how to do this have been emailed to headteachers or can be viewed here: <https://www.thegrid.org.uk/news/the-new-grid-website>

For information and support relating to COVID-19: <https://www.thegrid.org.uk/covid-19>

Kind regards

Hertfordshire County Council