

Government Guidance

Inside this article, you can find the latest government guidance. You can skip to the sections most relevant to you by clicking the following: [Staying at home](#); [Education](#); [Social care](#); [Public Health England & NHS England](#) and [Ministerial letters](#).

Staying Alert and Safe

- National lockdown: what you need to know. On Monday 4th January 2021 the Prime Minister announced that England will move into new national lockdown restrictions, in response to data on the increased transmissibility of the new variant of coronavirus, in order to bring the virus under control whilst the vaccine programme is rolled out. Get up to date with latest guidance to stay at home [here](#).
- Coronavirus: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable. Read [here](#).
 - Shielding from coronavirus GP letter easy read. Read [here](#).
- Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own. Includes guidance on exemptions to wearing a face covering where they are mandated. Read [here](#).

Education

- Guidance for full opening of schools. Schools and colleges are being asked to close for face to face teaching from 5th January until late February. Updated guidance is currently being written but you can read the most recent version [here](#).
- Guidance for further education and skills providers. Guidance for further education (FE) providers on maintaining education and skills training, changes to funding arrangements, data collections and assessment. Read [here](#).

- Transport to school and other places of education: autumn term 2020. Read [here](#).
- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Guidance is in the process of being updated following the announcement of national restrictions but you can read the most recent guidance [here](#).
- Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care. Preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE, in education, childcare and children's social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: online education resources. Online educational resources for schools and parents to help children learn at home. Read [here](#).
- Changes to the school exclusion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This statutory guidance describes the temporary changes made to the school exclusion process due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: SEND risk assessment guidance: Guidance for special schools, specialist colleges, local authorities and any other settings managing children and young people with complex special educational needs and disability (SEND). Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: keeping children safe online. Advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: free school meals guidance for schools. This guidance explains what schools should do to make sure eligible pupils have continued access to free school meals. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: maintaining educational provision. Guidance about maintaining educational provision for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England. Read [here](#).
- What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: guidance on isolation for residential educational settings. Guidance to support management of children and young people in residential

educational settings, including boarding schools, residential special schools and specialist colleges and children's homes. Read [here](#).

- Coronavirus: travel guidance for educational settings. This guidance is for students, staff and children in the education sector planning to travel in the UK or overseas, and for those who are already overseas. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: school closures. What schools will need to do during the coronavirus outbreak. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: early years and childcare closures. Guidance for local authorities, early years settings and childminders about childcare provision following the outbreak of coronavirus. Read [here](#).
- Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Read [here](#).

Social Care

- Coronavirus: guidance for children's social care services. Advice about coronavirus for local authorities and their partners to help support and protect vulnerable children. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: looking after people who lack mental capacity. Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity. Read [here](#).

Public Health England & NHS England

- NHS guidance for people working in healthcare. Read [here](#).
- Coronavirus: guidance for health professionals- information on coronavirus, including guidance on the assessment and management of suspected UK cases. Read [here](#).
- Public Health England - Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Read [here](#).

- Coronavirus: infection prevention and control- Guidance on infection prevention and control in healthcare settings. Read [here](#).

Ministerial Letters

- Joint Ministerial Letter on the full return to educational settings in September 2020. Read [here](#).
- A Joint Ministerial letter to children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers. Read [here](#).
- An open letter from the Children and Families Minister. Read [here](#).
- A Joint Ministerial letter to the Disability Charities Commission. Read [here](#).
- A Thank You Letter from the Secretary of State for Education. Read [here](#).
- A Thank You Letter from the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care. Read [here](#).
- A joint statement from the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, the Minister for Care, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families: supporting disabled people through the coronavirus outbreak. Read [here](#).