



# EAST RIDING

OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

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[www.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk)

Ronnie Hartley Head of Children and Young People, Specialist Services

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into week five of the current national lockdown and with the message from central government that it's unlikely that arrangements will be eased before the 8<sup>th</sup> March, particularly in relation to a phasing of school reopening arrangements, I wanted to update you on a few things. I hope these summaries continue to provide you all with the clarity on the current guidance for vulnerable children and young people, including those with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) accessing their education provision.

The Government has clearly stated that their priority throughout the lockdown is to protect the NHS by flattening the curve of transmissions and has implemented further measures surrounding schools after the February half term;

- Schools and Colleges will be closed to all children during the February half term (15<sup>th</sup> Feb – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021) including vulnerable children and those of critical workers.
- Schools and Colleges will re-open on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 to only those children/young people identified as vulnerable (Including those with EHCP's) and the children of critical workers.
- Please check with your child/young person's education setting to ensure the above dates are correct as some may have additional training days.

The letter to parents and carers from the Minister for Families and Children Vicky Ford MP is still available to read via the link below and reinforces the current guidance from the Government that;

- Provision should continue to be in place to support the attendance of those children, however, parents may choose to access remote learning or a combination of attendance and remote learning.
- Where schools and settings encounter circumstances resulting in them not being able to offer full time provision (where families choose to access this) there should be open and honest conversations between schools and families to re-establish this as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you choose to not send your child/ren to school at the moment and would prefer that they are accessing remote learning we emphasise that you must let your child's school/college know so, this will be recorded as an authorised absence.

Again I would like to reiterate that our obligations to meet our statutory timeframes remain in place for those families going through the assessment process for an Education Health

**Eoin Rush**

Director of Children, Families and Schools

and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual reviews and consultations are also continuing to take place in a timely fashion to support the identified needs of Children and young people with an EHCP.

Lateral flow testing has now been made available for staff of primary schools and those nurseries attached to primary schools as well as staff and pupils at secondary schools and colleges. These rapid tests support schools and settings to manage the risk of infection within their settings for those who present as asymptomatic.

Whilst testing for pupils remains voluntary, we do encourage students to participate where possible.

The full guidance can be found via the link at the bottom of this document.

The wellbeing and mental health of children and young people with SEND is a real concern especially as the social restrictions continue during the Covid 19 Pandemic. I am happy to share with you that funding has been made available to support families with children with additional needs, to support their emotional wellbeing. Application details and criteria for parents and carers will soon be available on the East Riding Local Offer, East Riding Parent Carer Form (EYPCF) website and sent out to schools to share with families.

The Local Offer site continues to be the dedicated place where we share information with families, young people and our partners. A dedicated Covid 19 page provides specific information and updates on services and support along with a new Communication to Parents and Carers, Children and Young People where you can find all correspondence and support for families.

The link to this page is available below.

I again thank all families for continuing to follow the Government Guidance and supporting our local health and education services.

Best Wishes and Stay Safe

**Ronnie Hartley**

**Head of Children and Young People, Specialist Services**

**Minister Vicky Ford's letter:**

To all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and families, and others who support them. <http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/coronavirus/>

**Latest Government Guidance:**

Further education guidance for restricting attendance during the national lockdown

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/951465/January\\_2021\\_FE\\_operational\\_guidance\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951465/January_2021_FE_operational_guidance_FINAL.pdf)

**Rapid testing guidance in secondary schools and colleges**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

**Local Offer Covid 19 Page**

<http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/coronavirus/>

