

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Sheet 5 - Governance 10 June 2020



The Local Authority (LA) continue to circulate communications via email, to leaders in schools. These updates contain up-to-date information for schools. All Covid-19 Schools Updates can be viewed on the Cumbria County Council (CCC) website: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/education.asp>.

There are also regular updates released by [Department for Education \(DfE\)](#) and [National Governance Association \(NGA\)](#).

The information and guidance contained within this document highlights recent updates for the attention of all governors.

## **Important letter regarding the wider reopening of schools**

In response to a number of media stories that have arisen over the last week, Executive Director John Readman, Assistant Director, Dan Barton and Director of Public Health Colin Cox, have circulated a [letter](#) regarding the wider reopening of schools.

Please note: The government announced on 9<sup>th</sup> June that it is no longer feasible for all primary school years in England to go back to school before the end of term and instead schools will be given "flexibility" over whether or not to admit more pupils.

## **COVID-19 resource pack for educational settings**

A [resource pack](#) which aims to bring together, in one place, all the most up to date information about national and local support available to educational settings has been made available to schools.

This document has been created using information taken directly from the PHE (Public Health England) NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Schools (Version 1 – 1 June 2020) and supplemented with additional information about the Cumbria local contact, test

and trace systems. In addition, the resource includes information in relation to the various queries we've been receiving regularly from schools and other setting leaders.

### **Extra mental health support for pupils and teachers**

As more pupils return to the classroom as part of the Government's phased approach to the wider opening of schools, the DfE has announced funding for [extra mental health support for pupils and teachers](#) to help respond to the impact of the coronavirus on mental health and wellbeing.

### **Educational disadvantage caused by Covid-19**

It is thought that the economic legacy of COVID-19 is likely to result in more pupils experiencing poverty and challenging family circumstances that create educational disadvantage. NGA's latest COVID-19 [information briefing](#) published last week, sets out the strategic approach that governing boards can take to reduce educational disadvantage caused and exacerbated by COVID-19. The information briefing also highlights the importance of governing boards reviewing their school/trust pupil premium strategy in the light of COVID-19.

### **Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Due to the LAs allocation of emergency funding being set, this means the LA cannot continue with this provision without passing cost recovery on to schools. As such, the LA will continue to offer to procure and distribute PPE centrally for schools, but that for all new orders, a charge will be made to schools for those orders.

The DfE have provided guidance giving details on additional funding available to schools to cover costs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/school-funding-exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19-for-the-period-march-to-july-2020>.

The guidance provides details of the additional costs which are covered and how this funding can be accessed. If a school faces other, extraordinary costs to deliver appropriate support to their pupils through this period that are not covered by this list and

cannot be met by existing budgets, they should contact [DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk). Other queries should continue to be directed towards central enquiry channels.

### **BAE Systems – offer of support for schools in Furness**

BAE has informed us as part of their ongoing support to the local community, they have offered, voluntarily and free of charge, advice and support in relation to the adoption of COVID-19 safe working arrangements in schools and nurseries in the Furness area (Barrow, Dalton, Askam and Ulverston); drawing on their experience of implementing such arrangements for their own workforce.

If your school or nursery would like to take up this offer or discuss in more detail could we request that you contact Abby Graham at the following email address [abby.graham@baesystems.com](mailto:abby.graham@baesystems.com).

### **Public Liability Insurance**

All childcare providers must check the terms and conditions of their public liability insurance policies and consult with insurance providers and brokers to determine the coverage for coronavirus (COVID-19). Some existing public liability policies may have been written or adjusted during the term of the policy (where permitted) to exclude coronavirus (COVID-19) risks, and some insurers may choose to exclude coronavirus (COVID-19) when offering public liability policy renewals.

Updated [guidance](#) provides further information. For general advice on insurance matters (not on specific policies) including those related to coronavirus (COVID-19), Association of British Insurers (ABI) can be contacted by phone on 0207 600 3333 or email at [info@abi.org.uk](mailto:info@abi.org.uk)