

Department for Education

This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Educational setting status form – request for feedback

We are looking for volunteers to test improvements to our educational settings status online form and provide feedback over the coming days and weeks. We are looking to speak to those who collate the information and complete the daily form through short remote sessions.

If you are able to help, please send your name and contact details to:

- DFE.EDUCATIONSETTINGSTATUS@education.gov.uk

Actions for higher education providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

We have published guidance for higher education providers on the Government support package for universities and students, and the process for clearing and student number controls during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-higher-education-providers-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Students should also read the student guide to coronavirus (COVID-

19) published by the Office for Students for information about securing a place at university, the clearing process, accommodation, and finance.

The student guide can be found here:

- <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/questions-and-answers/>

New virtual cyber initiative for teenagers

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced an online initiative that aims to inspire school pupils to work in the cyber security sector through a range of extracurricular activities including online classes. This provides the opportunity to learn and develop the important skills required for future jobs in areas like cyber security from home.

Full details of this announcement and the resources available can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-virtual-cyber-school-gives-teens-chance-to-try-out-as-cyber-security-agents-from-home>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline – Friday 8 May Bank Holiday opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

The helpline will remain open over the early May Bank Holiday weekend for staff, parents and young people as follows:

10am to 4pm – Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Our standard opening hours will resume on Monday 11 May:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

The information below has not changed since yesterday.

Handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be

used in various settings including schools and at home:

- <https://e-bug.eu/>

Collection of guidance for educational settings on GOV.UK

All of the Department for Education's coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found in one place on GOV.UK at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Our main schools guidance, the 'actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak' will be regularly kept up to date. Any new advice for schools on specific issues, such as food, exams or safeguarding, will be linked from:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>