**Actions for Early Years and Childcare providers during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak**

**Updated 2 July 2020**

This guidance covers schools (maintained, non-maintained and independent) and all providers on the Early Years register.

**Summary of changes**

* From 20th July settings will no longer have to keep children in small consistent groups (bubbles) but should still minimise mixing where possible, for example by keeping different room groups apart. All other protective measure should stay in place.
* It is not mandatory for all Early Years settings to open.
* Settings MUST still assess risk and put in place proportionate control measures. If opening to a wider number of children they should review and update their risk assessment.
* The guidance sets out a ‘system of controls’ (protective measures) that settings must take (summarised below):
1. Individuals with covid-19 or those in their household do not attend the setting
2. Wash hands more often
3. Promote catch it, bin it, kill it approach to respiratory hygiene
4. Enhanced cleaning
5. Minimise contact between groups where possible (settings must consider this and put in place measures to suit their circumstances)
6. Where necessary wear PPE – where looking after an individual displaying symptoms or in the course of usual personal care

In response to any infection:

1. Engage with NHS track and trace system
2. Manage a confirmed case amongst the setting community
3. Contain an outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The guidance contains more detailed advice on the above measures.

* Childminders should work with parents to agree how best to manage journeys such as pick-ups and drop-offs at schools to reduce the need to travel with groups of children. If this is necessary then preferably by walking, then by private car rather than public transport.
* Visitors to settings – settings encouraged to avoid visitors if possible. If essential professionals are needed, such as social workers, speech therapists or professionals to support EHCPs settings should assess whether this can be done virtually. If this is not possible visitors should follow protective measures, including social distancing and visit as infrequently as possible. Try to have visitors outside of opening hours and record visitor details. Parents/carers should not enter the setting unless essential.
* Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1st August (subject to continued decline in infections) therefore all children and staff can return to settings unless they have a positive test result or there is local advice to shield due to a localised outbreak.
* Wraparound providers can operate from 4th July, in school/EY settings or other premises, if following safe working/protective measures guidance (link provided within document).
* Large groups of children (currently more than 6 in group including adult) still cannot be taken to public open spaces.
* EYFS reforms – link provided to government response to consultation document. Primary schools invited to be early adopters of the new EYFS in 2020-21. Statutory rollout will be in 2021-22.
* Reception baseline introduction postponed – schools invited to be early adopters from second half of autumn term 2020. Statutory rollout will be 2021-22.