



**Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP**

Secretary of State

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**Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP**  
Chair of the Education Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Robert,

In my previous letter, I set out changes resulting from the Prime Minister's 'Living With Covid' announcement. Since then, schools, colleges, universities, childcare and other education providers continue to adapt to take on our guidance and public health advice.

#### **Update on the rollout of devices**

The government has provided over 1.9 million laptops and tablets to help schools, colleges and other FE institutions throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The scale of deliveries was increased following the announcement on 5 January 2021 about a national lockdown and restricting attendance in schools and colleges but has since decreased following the return to schools on 8 March 2021. On 8 March 2022 we published the latest figure of 1,901,477 devices having been delivered since the start of the scheme. The latest full data on laptops and tablets is available at <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/laptops-and-tablets-data>

#### **Attendance**

The department's analysis from week 10 data indicates that 92.2% of pupils were in school on Thursday 3 March with 99.9% of state-funded schools open, excluding settings expected to be on holiday. Data for attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus outbreak for week 10 can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The department's analysis from week 8 data indicates that 90.3% of pupils were in school on Thursday 6 January with 100% of state-funded schools open excluding settings expected to be on holiday. Data for attendance in education

and early years settings during the coronavirus outbreak for week 8 can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/2022-week-8>

The department's analysis from week 6 data indicates that 89.1% of pupils were in school on Thursday 6 January with 100% of state-funded schools open excluding settings expected to be on holiday. Data for attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus outbreak for week 6 can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/2022-week-6>

### **Other key updates**

In addition to the above, please see below recent key updates from the department.

The department has updated guidance on:

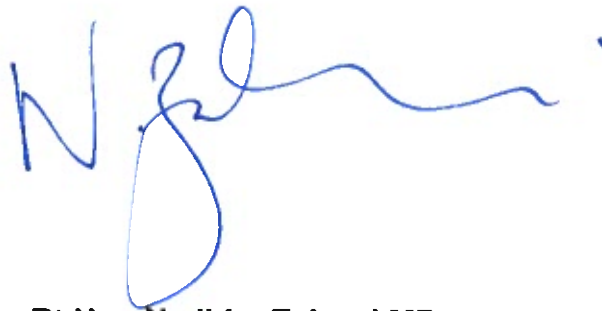
- Boarding school students quarantine and testing arrangements. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/boarding-school-students-quarantine-and-testing-arrangements>
- The initial supply of COVID-19 home testing kits for pupils, teachers and staff. The guidance for schools and FE providers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers>
- The school-led tutoring grant. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-led-tutoring-grant>
- Information for parents and carers about attending schools, nurseries and colleges during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- Special schools and other specialist settings during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>
- Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- Higher education providers during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campus>

- Actions for FE colleges and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision>
- School and college performance measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-and-college-performance-measures>

Ofqual has updated guidance on:

- Exams and formal assessments in 2021 to 2022. The guidance for students can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-guide-to-exams-and-formal-assessments-in-2021-to-2022>

I hope you find this information useful.



**Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**