

Q&A / follow up from DfE Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting, 30/11/20
Questions related to pilots in schools and colleges of community testing

Communication Materials

Q. Can we have access to communications materials to advise on the operational / workload requirements for schools and colleges of community testing pilots?

Yes, we want to engage on the design of communications materials and we're attaching some key documents on mass testing in schools and colleges including:

- A schools and colleges operational toolkit
- A communications handbook
- A visual guide for school leaders on managing positive cases

There are many more materials such as training videos, letters to parents and consent forms being co-produced with schools and colleges which we can provide access to. We are keen to ensure these meet the needs of staff to reduce the burden on schools and colleges as we scale up testing, and look at tests being self-administered where appropriate.

If you have any feedback on the communications materials, and how we can further develop them, please share this with school.testing@dhsc.gov.uk and alex.bigham@nihp.nhs.gov.uk

Q. Are there specific materials to engage young people and increase awareness?

- We are co-creating materials including curriculum content and explainer videos with partners such as 'Operation Ouch', University of Southampton and the Scouts.
- These are being produced by DHSC and DfE in partnership with schools, teachers, parents and young people.
- We will share these in the next few weeks and would appreciate your help to share these as widely as possible ahead of the new term in January. We will also follow up with colleagues at the Oak National Academy, I hear you had an excellent presentation from Matt Hood.
- These recognise the importance of engaging children and young people directly, and look at the pandemic through the lens of STEM & mental health and wellbeing. If you have comments about the materials please contact thomas.graham@nihp.nhs.uk

Q. How can we reduce the workload for school leaders around contact tracing?

Julie McCulloch at ASCL raised issues around the time that school and college leaders are spending on contact tracing and we appreciate all their efforts. If there is more we could do to streamline the process, the best point of contact would be Joanne Todd, Director of Trace Operations in the first instance Joanne.Todd@dhsc.gov.uk

Q. How can we ensure the process and programmes are as locally-led as possible?

We are working hard to ensure our approach is as locally led as possible, providing lateral flow tests direct to local Directors of Public Health to use as they see fit and working in partnership with key local stakeholders. External affairs colleagues will contact ADCS to ensure that directors of children's services are kept informed and engaged about testing pilots in schools and colleges alongside elected councillors and MPs.

3 December 2020