**NASS Update (03.06.20)**

Hello everyone,

Many of you may have received an email last night indicating that changes have been made to the DfE guidance on ‘implementing protective measures …’: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

There’s not quite as much drama as the big headline might suggest! These are mainly subtle changes. There’s no real change on the core PPE message but it’s slightly more nuanced to reflect the ‘bubble’ concept of groups of people who are routinely in contact. Classes, staff groups and regular transport providers can then be classed as a ‘bubble’, which would be seen as a reason not to routinely use PPE. This may or may not be convincing to you. The one key change on PPE is that schools are asked to go to ’their’ LA if they need PPE, rather than their Local Resilience Forum. However, the message for residential settings is still to go to the LRF if needed and this may continue to be the most pragmatic approach for special schools.

Despite the change in general guidance to allow shielded people out for exercise, the messages on work for those who are extremely vulnerable, vulnerable or living with someone extremely vulnerable are unchanged. Consequently, you are unlikely to be able to call on these staff to return to work at this point.

Whilst the guidance mentions ’test and trace’ there is no real discussion of the impact this might have on your setting, should a staff member or student test positive. For the first time, the guidance states that if someone in an education setting has a confirmed positive test then the whole class - students and staff - should self-isolate for 14 days.  We urgently need guidance on what this means in practice for residential settings and for being able to keep both day and residential provision open in the face of a positive test. I have a SEND Reference Group meeting this morning and this is on the agenda for discussion. If you have had any practical incident relating to test and trace, I’d be very keen to hear from you - cdorer@nasschools.org.uk

We’ll update again as soon as we have more practical advice. We hope things are going well in school so far this week!

With our best wishes

Claire, Karen, Jenny and Kate