

Weekly DfE/Taskforce Meeting Situational Report

Thursday 25 February 2021

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Summary

PM's announcement on return to education settings supported by suite of guidance publications for each sector.

Early Years (EY)

- We estimate that the 453,000 children currently attending early years settings is approximately 43% of the usual daily level. This includes an estimated 17,000 who are vulnerable children

Actions:

- Continuing to monitor attendance, particularly in deprived areas, on a weekly basis – triaging data with LAs
- Continued dialogue with HMT – if evidence of sufficiency issues emerges will resume funding talks
- Comms plan on asymptomatic testing. Working with DHSC to clarify community mass testing rollout and explore options for the sector.

Schools

- 16.3% of children in attendance on 22/02, vast majority of schools open after half term.
- Announced full return from 8 March. Parent intention to return their child to school has seen an increase throughout Feb and since the announcement to 72%.
- Workforce confidence remains a risk, including around ONS publication. S44 letters issue may come to the fore.

Actions:

- Prepare for return of all pupils from 8 March, including sector readiness and focus on new attendance expectations.
- Comms – focus on parental confidence as we prepare for return
- Work to prepare data and reporting flows for attendance from March 8

Further Education (FE)

- Announced full return from 8 March.
- Territorial teams will undertake a ring round of FE colleges this week and next to ask about preparations for 8 March

Actions:

- Conclude preparations for announcement expected 24/2 of 16-19 provision in additional catch-up support package
- Conclude preparations for announcement on VTO exams expected 25/2 following Ofsted consultation
- Continue work to enable access to testing for independent training providers and adult and community learning providers from end March

Higher Education (HE)

- 926,500 able to return to in-person teaching and learning from the 8th March. (49%)
- 1,400,900 are either able to return to in-person teaching OR are commuter students/students who have returned to/ remained in University accommodation. (74%)

Actions:

- All HE practical students to return on 08.03
- Continuing work with strategic comms to outline messaging for Easter break
- Pursuing the elsewhere rate for maintenance loans to be extended into the summer term.
- Preparing initial advice on options for supporting 2021 graduates post-graduation.

Cross-sector issues

Ensure access to high-quality remote education:

- Almost all schools/colleges report providing remote education in line with the expected/minimum hours set in guidance. Over one million laptops/tablets have been delivered, inc. over 490k since 4 Jan
- Comms strategy to manage the narrative on remote education, lost learning and catch-up, and to build parent, sector and pupil/student confidence.
- Statutory instrument laid making it a legal duty for schools to publish remote ed info on their websites from 12 Feb. Review of websites shows majority of schools and colleges are publishing this info

Catch-up provision

- Kevan Collins was appointed as Education Recovery Commissioner to advise Ministers on the approach for education recovery, with a particular focus on helping students catch up on learning lost as a result of the pandemic. He is in the process of engaging with the sector and developing policy options looking at themes of time, teaching and targeting.
- The Education Recovery announcement went out on 24/2 that includes an extra c.£400m in funding has been announced, along with £300m announced for catch-up projects in January. The combined £700m package for England includes: a one-off £302m "recovery premium" for state primary and secondary schools to boost summer schooling, clubs and activities, £200m to fund face-to-face secondary summer schools, with teachers in charge of deciding which pupils benefit, and c.£200m for an expanded national tutoring programme for primary and secondary pupils and an extended tuition fund for 16 to 19-year-olds and £18m funding to support early-years language development.
- Since launch in Nov 2020, over 125,000 pupils enrolled in the NTP and 41,000 have started to receive tutoring. Over 14,500 tutors are now working as part of the NTP. For this academic year, it is estimated that approx. 15,000 tutors will support the scheme offering tuition to over 250,000 pupils.

Exams

- We have confirmed our proposals that in summer 2021, students taking GCSE, AS and A levels regulated by Ofqual should be awarded grades based on an assessment by their teachers.
- Ofqual & DfE conducted consultation on how to award grades fairly to provide clarity to the sector. We are planning to announce further details on arrangements for awarding in 2021 on 25th Feb.

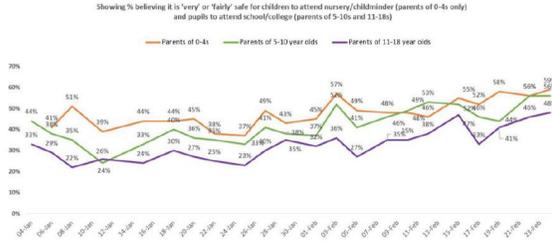
Testing:

- At least 5m tests have been conducted in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and Higher Education Institutions (as of 22/02/21)
- Continued implementation of mass testing and ensuring schools and colleges are prepared to fully roll-out their programme for re-opening.
- Covid O has approved rapid expansion into wider education settings (private EYs, CSC and FE) and introducing regular weekly testing for pupils/students in secondary schools/colleges.

Parental confidence

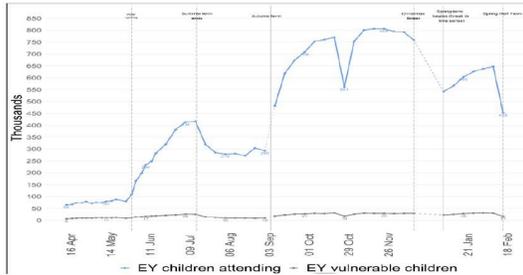
Parent confidence in the safety of attending settings has increased to the highest levels this year following the announcement of the wider reopening of schools on 8 March. 75% of primary parents and 71% of secondary parents say their child will return on that date

How safe or unsafe do you think it is at the moment for a) Pupils to be attending school or college? b) Children to attend nursery or a childminder?



Early Years (EY)

Priority to ensure sufficiency and quality of childcare places – especially for critical worker and vulnerable children



Situational assessment

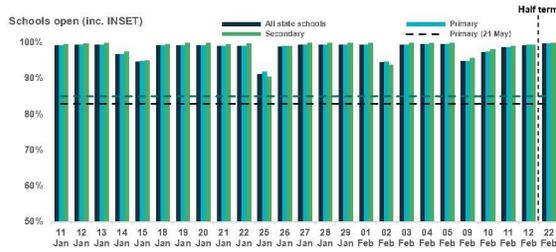
- Concerns of risk of widespread localised failure of the Early Years market. During our evidence gathering we have not found any indication that this is likely to happen this term – provider finances are remaining broadly stable. However, the risk remains high while testing and vaccination access in the sector remains unsettled, as this both continues to suppress parental confidence and therefore demand, keeping attendance (and therefore provider income) low and impacts staff availability (supply).
- Sector concerns around safety of EY settings remaining open to all. NEU/NAHT unions pressing for Early Years to be restricted in line with schools.
- Concern that childminders don't have access to home test kits, following the announcement on 22 February for staff in EY PVI settings to receive these from mid-March.
- An estimated 45,000 settings are open. This represents 66% of all settings, with 22% closed and 12% unknown.
- We estimate that the 453,000 children currently attending early years settings is approximately 43% of the usual daily level. This includes an estimated 17,000 who are vulnerable children. We estimate this represents approximately 21% of 0 to 4 year-olds classified as 'Children in Need' or who have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Both the number of children attending and the proportion of early years childcare settings open dropped on Thursday 19 February, this is most likely a result of half term closures.

Updates on key actions:

- Frequent engagement with HMT continues, to discuss funding if the position on EY providers changes and imminent or actual sufficiency issues emerge
- Comms plan underway on asymptomatic testing. Urgently working with DHSC to clarify details for community mass testing rollout and explore options for the sector.
- Working on putting in place a troubleshooting contract for LAs in regard to the entitlements.
- Developing a document on early years transparency and how we calculate increases in funding rates in response to the latest NAO report.
- Rationale for Early Years to remain open reconfirmed with PHE and DHSC in light of announcements on new variants. Working to assess implications of ONS and other infection data on rationale.

School opening & attendance

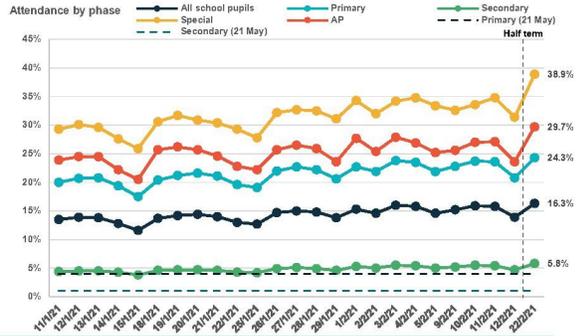
The vast majority of schools are open after half-term, and continue to report being able to meet demand for places. Attendance rates are at 16%, a slight rise since before half-term.



Due to half-term w/c 15 February, comparison figures are from 12/02 and 08/02.

- 99.7% of state-funded schools were open to children of critical workers (CWC) / vulnerable children (VC) on 22/02, compared with 99.2% on 12/02 and 95% on 08/02.
- Of the 0.3% of state-funded schools closed to all pupils on 22/02:
 - 0.1% closed for COVID reasons, previously 0.3% on 12/02 and 0.3% on 08/02
 - 0.2% closed for non-COVID reasons, previously 0.5% on 12/02 and 4.9% on 08/02

- Overall, 16.3% of children are in attendance in face to face learning in state-funded schools on 22/02, up from 13.9% on 12/02 and 14.7% on 08/02.
- Attendance on 22 Feb was 71.1% of children of critical workers who requested a place, previously 62.5% on 12/02 and 66.7% on 08/02.
 - 3.5% of open schools unable to provide a place for all critical worker children who requested a place, previously 4.6% on 12/02 and 4.8% on 08/02
 - This affects 0.8% of critical worker children who requested a place but are without a place in open schools, previously 1.1% on 12/02 and 1.1% on 08/02

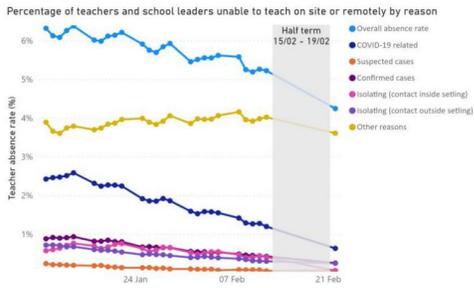


Actions to support schools to make effective decisions to manage attendance, particularly of critical worker children (see slide 9 for detail on vulnerable children):

- Continued monitoring of critical worker children's attendance and engagement with the sector, including following up schools who say they are not open.
- Continued use of messaging which reflects government position on CWC and VC attendance, and there is no need to limit numbers in individual schools
- Focus on preparation for return of all pupils from 8 March, including comms/parental confidence, readiness on testing and clarity on attendance at secondary in first week, and understanding any barriers to full return/preparing for regional support/challenge/intervention.

School workforce capacity

Staff availability remained stable up to half-term and has increased on the first day back after half term. Focus is on assessing workforce risks and building staff confidence to ensure sufficient workforce capacity to support wider return of children.



The proportion of staff on site has increased on the first day after half term:

As of 22 February,

- 41.4% of teachers and school leaders were on site in responding state-funded schools (55.4% primary, 24.4% secondary and 69.2% special/AP/PRU); previously 38.2% on 8 February.
- 57.2% of TAs and other staff were on site in responding state-funded schools (63.8% primary, 40.2% secondary and 65.8% special/AP/PRU); previously 54.2% on 8 February.

The proportion of staff unable to teach on site or remotely has decreased on the first day after half term, with a reduction in COVID-related and other reasons for absence:

As of 22 February,

- 4.3% of teachers and school leaders were unable to teach on site or remotely in responding state-funded schools (5.6% primary, 2.6% secondary and 7.6% special/AP/PRU); previously 5.6% on 8 February.
- 6.4% of TAs and other staff were unable to teach on site or remotely in responding state-funded schools (7.2% primary, 3.5% secondary and 9.6% special/AP/PRU); previously 8.2% on 8 February.

Note: Analysis is based on reporting in responding schools only. How schools have interpreted the questions and the absence reasons might not be consistent and some schools are likely to still be basing their responses on the old questions.

Actions underway to support schools to manage school workforce absence:

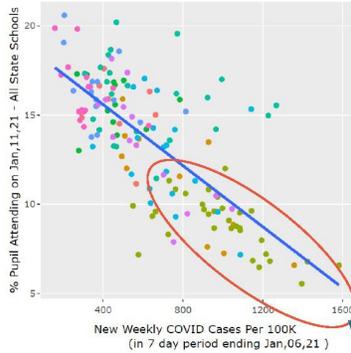
- The ONS data on infection rates has been published as has a DfE evidence summary, guidance for schools addresses workplace safety and increased safety measures (testing, face coverings) are in place. As reflected in the evidence summary, PHE and DHSC have also advised that risks of transmission to education staff are no different from those for most other occupations. We still anticipate some stakeholder handling, especially with unions. We are preparing specific comms which we will issue to schools if they begin to receive an increase number of Section 44 letters from staff, and especially in the case of SEND where it is more difficult to maintain social distancing measures.
- ☐ Continuing to plan for schools re-opening considering the impact of different scenarios on workforce absence and developing policy approach to mitigate risks. Feeding into wider policy work which affects the workforce e.g. mass testing in schools, curriculum decisions and catch-up strategy.
- ☐ Monitoring pressures on schools' workforce (including pupil attendance, remote ed, exams, availability of supply staff, expansion of shielding list) to identify workforce pressures/ further mitigations if needed.

Impact of COVID on attendance

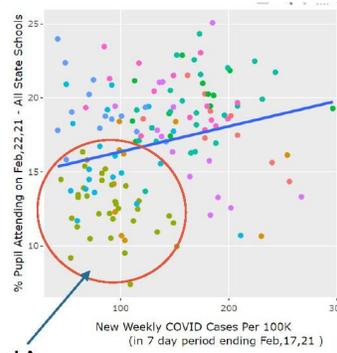
At the start of term attendance rates were highly correlated with community COVID rates. This is no longer the case due to LA level community COVID rates changing significantly whilst attendance rates are more stable. Schools of all types (high/low BAME & FSM, rural & urban) have seen increases in attendance after half term.

11th January (r-squared = 0.56)

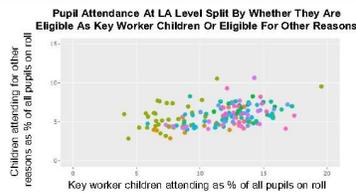
22nd February (r-squared = 0.06)



London LAs



- Whilst overall attendance is rising, this appears consistent across all LAs. They are also rising broadly consistently across schools with high/low % of BAME pupils, high/low % of FSM pupils and rural/urban schools.
- The levels of COVID cases within LAs have changed significantly over the last month. For example, LAs in London have seen COVID rates go from over 1000 cases per 100k to under 150 cases per 100k. In essence this means London has moved "to the left" on this charts shown here.
- This implies that reductions in COVID rates have not been a big driver for parents wanting to put their kids into schools, or that there are other barriers that are preventing them from doing this. This pattern is replicated for primaries and secondaries.

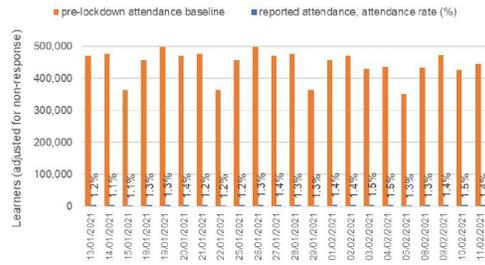


- We have also looked at how pupil attendance sub-divides at local authority level between pupils attending as children of key workers or children attending for other reasons (e.g. vulnerable children, children without a laptop)
- We see far greater variation between local authorities in the number of key worker children attending as a % of on roll pupils than we do in the number of children attending for other reasons (including vulnerable children). The data above implies community COVID rates may have been a bigger factor in influencing the number of critical worker children who attended than the number of vulnerable children who attended.
- From this data we cannot say whether community COVID rates drove parental views on school safety or the process adopted by schools on which children were eligible to attend and the related guidance they sent out.

Further Education (FE)

Updated guidance for FE providers published on 22 Feb in preparation for return of students from 8 March

FE college reported attendance vs. pre-lockdown baseline



Daily Attendance data (Due to half-term w/c 15 February, attendance figures are from Thursday 11/02):

- 95% of FE colleges (exc. NMSS and SPIs) reported being open (212 out of 224 responses).
- 100% of FE colleges report that they are meeting the remote learning requirement.
- There is a 1.4% attendance rate* vs. pre-lockdown attendance levels. Of those expected to attend FE colleges, 50.6% were reported as attending.
- 0.9% of teachers and leaders were absent due to COVID, 1.8% due to non-COVID reasons.

*experimental figure comparing current national attendance to the relevant day's expected attendance during reporting period 30 Nov to 11 Dec 2020

Situational assessment

- On 22 Feb, guidance was published alongside the announcement of a full FE return making clear that we expect every 16 to 19 student (or 19 to 25 with an EHCP) to attend their FE provider in person from 8 March, and to undertake the majority of their planned hours on site. Adult learners may also return on site from this date.
- On the rollout of devices as part of the Get Help with Technology service, 56,000 devices have been delivered to FE providers as at close Tues 16 Feb.
- We have expanded the free data offer from mobile network operators to financially disadvantaged 16-19 students.
- As of 10 February, 92% of secondary schools and colleges were ready to deliver Covid tests to staff and students (we are working with analysts on a breakdown for colleges in future).

Updates on key actions:

- We are developing a set of temperature check questions to ask the FE sector prior to 8 March to ascertain intentions around reopening, including any perceived challenges in relation to workforce, asymptomatic testing or transport.
- We are working closely with the rapid testing delivery team to develop guidance and comms products for the extension of home testing to ITPs and ACLPs from end March.
- On 24 February, we expect to announce details of the £300m funding for medium-term recovery of lost learning for the academic year 2021/22, including £102m allocated for continuation of the 16-19 Tuition Fund. FE stakeholders met with Sir Kevan Collins on 22 February.
- We are preparing for the announcement of the final position on VTQ exams which is scheduled for 25 February.
- Minister Gibb has agreed that we should seek agreement from HMT to distribute £9.8m to 46 Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) for home to school and college transport for the second half of Spring term – and for a maximum of £3.9m of potential emergency funds.

Higher Education (HE)

All practical students back from 8th March. Will mean half of students doing blended learning and est. up to 3/4s in blended learning or back in some term time accommodation. Continued need to focus on ensuring adequate support for mental health/wellbeing and maintaining quality of learning for remaining students.



Staff and student Covid cases data comes from Higher education providers (HEPs) in England registered with the OfS, who have been asked to submit Covid incidence information to DfE via a data collection tool set up by the OfS.

Situational assessment

- **926,500** able to return to in-person teaching and learning from the 8th March. (49%)^[1]
- **1,400,900** are either able to return to in-person teaching OR are commuter students/students who have returned to/remain in University accommodation. (74%)^[2]
- The following data and evidence publications released: OfS tool stats on covid cases in HE (19.02), ONS stats on impact on different workforces (22.02), SAGE paper summarising HE Covid impact (22.02)
- ONS Student Covid Insight Survey data continue to indicate that students' wellbeing and satisfaction levels are worsening over the course of the academic year. Next survey due to report in March.
- Conservatoires UK have flagged an issue with being charged by larger providers to offer testing facilities. Flagged with the testing team.

Updates on key actions:

- Revised guidance on students returning for the spring term issued 22.02 ("HE Spring term guidance"). Undergraduate and post-graduate students who are studying practical or practical-based (including creative arts) subjects and require specialist facilities will return from 8 March, therefore the catch up/summer teaching package is no longer required.
- We are pursuing the elsewhere rate for maintenance loans to be extended into the summer term and we are continuing to work up the case for hardship funding or maintenance loan write-offs (internally).
- We continue to work with strategic comms to outline initial thinking on messaging for students wanting to return home over Easter.
- Preparing advice on options for supporting 2021 graduates post-graduation. We will work with the sector to coordinate a package for graduates to support employability and mental health/ wellbeing.
- We are conducting an in depth situational analysis exercise on 26.02 to prepare for scenarios in the new academic year and over winter 21/22
- We are preparing an evidence summary for possible publication to summarise the key insights from the various evidence sources published.

[1] Total student numbers are based on 2019/20 HESA data, with distance learners and those studying wholly abroad excluded from these totals. Proportion of commuters are estimated from the 2019/20 HESA student record. Data on numbers of commuters is incomplete (not all part-time students return this information) Numbers here are therefore likely to be an underestimate.

[2] Approximately 1.4 million (around 74%) of all non-distance learners at HEPs in England (excluding distance learners and those studying wholly abroad). This is based on unpublished estimates from the 19/20 HESA student record and an assumption that 33% of non-commuter students are already back in their term time accommodation (based on HEP reports through the OfS collection)

Vulnerable children (VC)

Referrals to children's social care continue to be below typical levels.

Attendance in state-funded schools for vulnerable pupil groups

(week ending 12 Feb), non-grossed

Weekly average attendance rate of all pupils, EHCP and pupils with a social worker. *All responding state funded excl FE



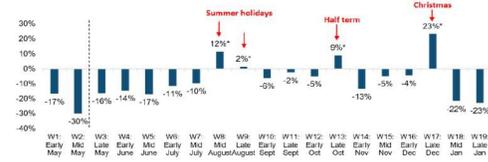
Please note, due to half term there is no updated weekly average attendance data. The most recent data is w/e 12th Feb

- 36% of children with an EHCP attending (48% in primary, 26% in secondary) compared to 37% the previous week. This small decrease is likely due to disruption by weather as well being consistent with dips in attendance before other school holidays this academic year.
- 43% of children with a social worker attending (54% in primary, 27% in secondary) compared to 44% the previous week.
- In special schools, attendance decreased to 33% compared to 34% the previous week.
- In AP, attendance decreased to 26% compared to 27% in the previous week.
- In Early Years, VC attendance is approximately 26,700 pupils as of 11 Feb

Safeguarding pressures and risks to vulnerable children (latest data mid-Jan)

Referrals to children's social care

Difference in the total number of referrals compared to same week in previous years



- Total referrals 23% lower than same period last year, at lowest term-time levels since May. Referrals only part of story on rising risk of hidden harms (those below statutory threshold). Exploring LAs with greatest reductions (though in some cases reflects system improvements to secure better quality referrals)
- Referrals below baseline levels from all sources: schools (-57%), Police referrals had seemed to compensate partially but are now 10% below baseline levels.
- Reports of increased hidden harms inc online grooming, NSPCC report increase in calls about CYP facing domestic abuse, concerns about potential knife crime spike
- Service backlog issues being monitored: especially back log of highest risk family / public law cases involving children at greatest risk.
- ONS published data on Mon 22 Feb around some elements of social care workforces being more at risk to Covid than other sectors.

Attendance: Implementation of attendance actions include:

- Comms & best practice:** Planning for re-opening (22nd Feb to end March) includes further content showcasing best practice, promoting re-developed resources (e.g. SW toolkit), stakeholder engagement and interactive events (e.g. Facebook Q&A, potential ministerial visit). Updates to Social Worker toolkit published Monday 15th, including strengthened position on SW attendance expectations and additional Q&A to support. Further update planned for 01/03, to support re-opening.
- Outlier follow-up:** REACT continue follow up with LAs with low attendance w/c 15/02 (including where it is low compared with LAs with similar Covid incidence), though as it is half term, this is focussed on the LAs we have not been able to gather sufficient intel on to date. Some data showing positive changes in outlier LAs. This suggests follow up call itself appears to be affecting change in some LAs. London and Essex deep dives completed.

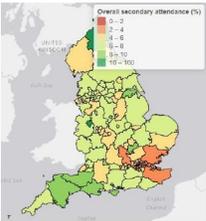
Safeguarding: focus on workstream priorities includes:

- Adolescents:** joint ministerial (DHSC/DfE/HO) letter to safeguarding partnerships on risk of spike in serious violence sent 19/2, planning for subsequent good practice event with partnerships in 30 SV hotspots on 17/3. Published guidance for parents on online safety.
- Supporting weaker LAs:** Future of LA survey to reduce frequency to monthly (awaiting ministerial sign off)
- Workforce:** consultation to review extending children's social care flexibilities beyond 31 Mar due to end 28/2; vaccination – working to resolve vaccinations for foster carers carer for CEV₁₀

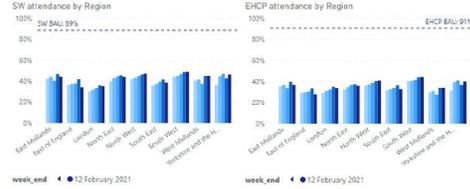
Regional & local impacts

Some variation across sectors but attendance generally low in London and East of England.

Schools attendance



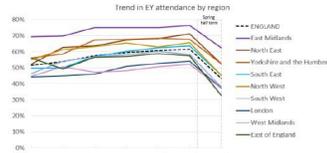
Vulnerable children attendance by region (average week ending), non-grossed



Please note, due to half term there is no updated weekly average attendance data. The most recent data is w/e 12th Feb

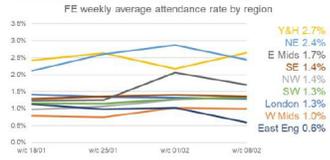
- Attendance in state funded schools was highest on 22/02 in areas in the North West and North East, and lowest in London and the East of England. Areas with highest attendance are Wigan (24.2%), Telford and Wrekin (23.4%) and North Lincolnshire (23.2%). Areas with lowest attendance are Redbridge (6.9%), Enfield (8.9%) and Slough (9%).
- Attendance for pupils with EHCP highest in Kensington and Chelsea (59%) and lowest in Southampton (26%) for 22/02. For pupils with a social worker, highest in North Lincolnshire (64%) and lowest in Croydon (27%).

Early Years (EY) attendance



EY attendance dropped in all regions, most likely due to half term, with lowest levels in the East of England, West Midlands and London. Attendance is highest in East Midlands, which has consistently seen highest levels of attendance this term.

Further Education (FE) attendance*



For w/e 12 Feb (latest data due to half-term) - FE attendance* was lowest in East of England. Low attendance was also seen in West Midlands. Attendance is highest in Yorkshire & the Humber and North East, which have consistently seen highest levels of attendance this term.

*experimental figure comparing current regional attendance to the relevant expected attendance during reporting period 30 Nov to 11 Dec 2020

Lower levels of intel due to half term break

General themes from feedback to regional teams:

- Attendance:** Reports of low VC/EHCP attendance in some areas, especially in APs. A number of Local Authorities have reported concerns about young people who may be dropping out of education (in particular those who moved into FE colleges in September 2020)

Specific regional issues raised to regional teams include:

- West Midlands:** Concern that the attendance data doesn't account for vulnerable children who do not fall into SW and EHCP categories, which they feel is particularly low but not being captured
- West Midlands:** S44 still in place in some schools in this region. Concern that S44 could continue after announcement on school reopening
- Lancashire and West Yorkshire:** Anticipated localised noise, particularly with Further Education settings, on new variants in the region following the recent death of a tutor in Burnley

Remote Education

Schools
Further education
Higher education

Almost all schools and colleges report providing remote education in line with the expected/minimum hours set in guidance. Over 1 million devices have been delivered, including over 490k since 4 January

Remote education expectations:

As of 22/02, almost all schools and colleges continue to report providing remote education in line with the expected/minimum hours set in guidance:

- 99.8% of all state-funded schools
- 97.3% of further education colleges

Support accessed:

Universal support offer – data as of 22 Feb (NB lower figs. last week likely due to half term)	
Get Help with Remote Ed page on gov.uk	• Estimated 900 users to site w/c 15 Feb; based on 36 recorded users and a cookie acceptance rate of 4%
Review your education provision Tool	• 24,452 total downloads of schools tool since publication (up from 24.2k last week) • 1,445 total downloads of FE tool since publication (up from 1,419 last week)
Oak National Academy	• In w/c 15 Feb, 296,043 users visited the Oak National Academy platform (dip in usage due to half term) • Since the start of the spring term 2021, 75.3 million lessons have been viewed (up from 74.6 million last week).
Platforms programme	• Since April 2020, 2.4 million accounts have been set up on Google or Microsoft classrooms
EdTech Demonstrator programme	• 3849 schools / colleges have accessed tailored support and advice and training • 9,280 schools and colleges have accessed live tutorials / webinars

In addition, RDD and REACT teams continue to provide support and challenge at regional level.

HE remote learning:

- We estimate that 20% of students are undertaking face-to-face teaching and 80% are currently undertaking online-only learning.
- OfS Sep 2020 data indicate students impacted adversely by lack of access to devices, online material and accessible study space. OfS update on quality of digital learning due late Feb 2020.

Devices update:

- Over 1.3 mill devices commitment (additional 300k announced 12 Jan)
- 1,055,745 delivered, including 493,324 delivered since the 4 January
- 67,565 routers have been delivered or dispatched since the start of the scheme.
- All FE providers have been invited to order.



Updates on key actions:

- Ofsted has carried out around 200 monitoring visits to schools graded as inadequate or requires improvement at their last full inspection. All were found to be taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.
- Remote education information SI came into force on 12 Feb
- Guidance for schools and colleges about provision of remote education from 8 March was published as part of schools and colleges operational guidance documents on 22 Feb
- Schools are being invited to order uplifted device allocations,
- HMT engagement following approval to purchase additional devices

Testing

At least 5m tests have been conducted in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and Higher Education Institutions (as of 22/02/21)

Daily testing MI:

Primary:

- 2,480,204 tests completed as of COP 22/02 with 0.19% positivity rate and 15.7m tests delivered (99% of scheduled deliveries completed).

Secondary:

- 1,920,978 tests completed as of COP 14/02 (plus an additional >170k orphaned results).
- 92.2% of secondary schools/colleges have registered on the NHS Digital Solution to record test results (6,344 sites as of 23/02).

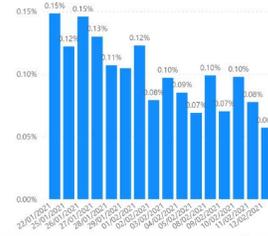
HE:

- 694,150 tests completed as of COP 15/02 - 301,905 in December and 392,245 tests so far in 2021 (2nd Jan up to and including 22nd Feb).
- Over 95% of eligible providers testing.

Programme Status:

- Overall programme is delivering well and prepared for the upscale of testing from 8 March onwards. Risks remain around evaluation of the programme's effectiveness in meeting its goals in particular on participation, including barriers to longer term and frequent participation. We have introduced continued review of behavioural insights studies to determine how the programme can achieve best possible participation and how and when it should intervene with specific establishments.
- There is a continuing risk around Programme Funding, and whilst an 'in principle decision' to fund the different testing models in each sector was given at COVID-O, a formal business case and sign off from HMT is still outstanding.
- Independent Training Providers and Adult Colleges - a delivery deadline for an on-demand model for ITP/ACLIP is 31 March 2021 which is at risk, this will be mitigated by agreeing what the digital solution will be with NHS T&T.
- Secondary Schools and Colleges - Priority guidance has been published on 23 Feb, including operational manuals and delivery schedules. Test kits on track to arrive from 24 Feb with additional deliveries 1 March and w/c 8 March. Second batch of targeted materials for parents and pupils to be launched 5 March. The improved digital journey via the introduction of bulk registration for secondary schools went live on 22 February
- From the 25th Feb DHSC will publish weekly statistics in primary schools, secondary schools and HE.

Daily positivity rate in secondary schools/ colleges (%)



Region	% Team Leaders registered*
South-West England	94.8%
East Midlands and the Humber	94.1%
North of England	94.0%
West Midlands	93.1%
South-East England and South London	92.8%
North-West London and South-Central England	89.6%
East of England and North-East London	88.8%
Lancashire and West Yorkshire	88.3%

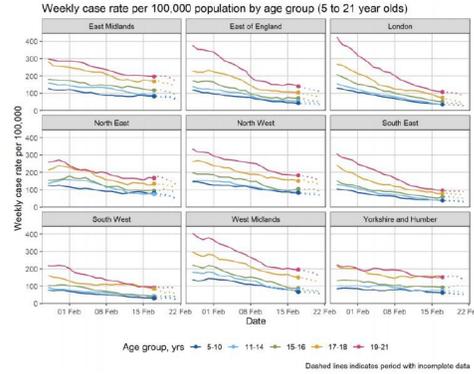
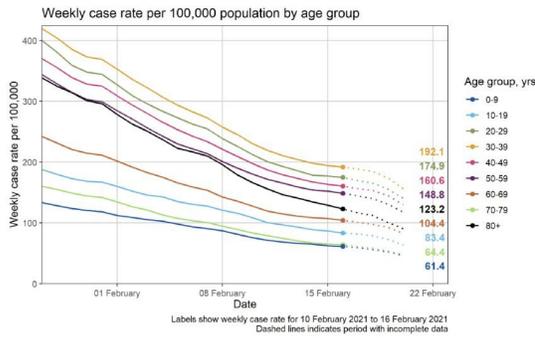
* Proxy for schools registered

Next steps:

- Create and prepare Batch 2 targeted material for transitioning secondary age students to test at home (5 March)
- Set out intervention criteria for secondary schools and colleges

Annex: wider COVID public health context

The national picture continues to improve, with case rates falling across all age groups, however rates remain higher than those experienced previously in this pandemic.



- Case rates continue to fall across all age groups nationally, however, rates remain very high and are significantly higher than the rates seen in September 2020.
- Case rates continue to fall across all young person cohorts in all regions, with the exception of the North East and Yorkshire and Humber, where case rates appear to have levelled off in recent weeks.
- All regions continue to show the 19-21 age group as having the highest case rates among those aged 5-21 years old. Nationally, case rates amongst the 10-19 age group remain the third lowest age group cohort by case rate ranking, while 0-9 year olds continue to see the lowest case rates.