

## Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020

The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 came into force on 24 April 2020 and remained in force until 25 September 2020. The Regulations made temporary amendments to various requirements and timescales.

The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 ('the temporary Regulations') came into force on 25 September 2020 and will continue in force until 31 March 2021.

The amended Regulations temporarily amend a series of 6 Regulations which are applicable during periods of national lockdown. The temporary Regulations:

- allow visits to take place over the telephone, a video link or other electronic communication methods, where face-to-face visits are not possible due to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- change the rules regarding health assessment in the process for approving adopters and foster carers, as long as assessments are obtained and considered for the final stage and prior to approval
- suspend the minimum frequency of Ofsted inspections, recognising that assurance visits will be conducted using a risk-based approach

These amendments are shown in the table below highlighted in green.

Revised guidance **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children's Social Care Services** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care>) provides that the temporary regulations are intended to be used where the flexibilities are still needed to provide effective support for children involved with children's social care services during the pandemic. These can be when:

- it would be contrary to any guidance relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) published by Public Health England or the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- it is not reasonably practicable for a reason relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The overarching approach to making use of these flexibilities should include:

- approval at chief officer level in local authorities and, where appropriate, top tier management level in other services and providers

- properly recording the use, along with the reasons for doing so and communicating to the other safeguarding partners and providers
- each local authority and provider recording the reason or reasons for use of a flexibility

Ofsted will take note of any use of these flexibilities, so providers should be ready to explain why their use was necessary, for what length of time and how any possible longer-term impacts were mitigated. This should be available to share with Ofsted, and others such as Independent Reviewing Officers, as appropriate. The records may be used to inform Ofsted's annual engagement meetings with local authorities and in any local authority or provider inspection activity. Ofsted will review the relevant records if they receive any complaints or concerns or whistleblowing.

The difficult and complex decisions that need to be taken during this period should be made in the spirit of the following principles:

- child-centred – promoting children's best interests: nothing is more important than children's welfare; children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as help is identified
- risk-based – prioritising support and resources for children at greatest risk
- family focussed – harnessing the strengths in families and their communities
- evidence informed – ensuring decisions are proportionate and justified
- collaborative – working in partnership with parents and other professionals
- transparent – providing clarity and maintaining professional curiosity about a child's wellbeing

There should be no blanket changes to social work practice, but COVID-19 brings additional risk and complexity to social work practice and may necessitate some different ways of working which should always be risk-based.

Note also the **Principles of Good Administrative Practice During the Response to Covid 19** set out by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, especially when departing from usual practice.

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/reports/guidance-notes/principles-of-good-administrative-practice>

This sets out principles to be followed by local authorities and safeguarding partners, including:

- There should be a clear audit trail of how and why key decisions were made, summarising key reasons for departing from normal practice;
- Where new or adapted policies and procedures are brought in, ensure staff are clear on these;
- The basis on which decisions are made and resources allocated should be open and transparent. Any new criteria, thresholds and timescales should be clear to service users and staff;
- Even where national rule changes allow raised thresholds for action, ensure you properly consider the individual circumstances of each case;
- Consider a triage approach.

**It is important that practitioners check their local position before varying duties and practice standards in the way permitted by the regulations.**

TOPIC	AMENDMENTS/INFORMATION
<b>Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline</b>	<p>The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children’s social care.</p> <p><a href="mailto:dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk">dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Phone: 0800 046 8687</p> <p>Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday</p> <p>If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the hotline.</p>
<b>Children’s Guide to Coronavirus (Children’s Commissioner)</b>	<p><a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/#163961_20200428063510">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/#163961_20200428063510</a></p>
<b>Remote Working and Use of Technology</b>	<p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b></p> <p>Whilst many staff will be working remotely during the coronavirus outbreak, it is important to note that personal data</p>

	<p>must at all times continue to be processed and stored in accordance with Data Protection principles.</p> <p>You should not use personal devices to communicate with service-users, store personal data on personal devices or download and use apps onto work or personal devices (phones/laptops/tablet computers) without express authorisation from your manager.</p> <p>See also <b>Home Working: Preparing Your Organisation and Staff - National Cyber Security Centre</b>        How to make sure your organisation is prepared for an increase in home working, and advice on spotting coronavirus (COVID-19) scam emails.  <a href="https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working">https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</a></p>
<p><b>Data Protection and Information Sharing</b></p>	<p><b>Data Protection and Coronavirus Information Hub (Information Commissioner’s Office)</b>  <a href="https://ico.org.uk/global/data-protection-and-coronavirus-information-hub/">https://ico.org.uk/global/data-protection-and-coronavirus-information-hub/</a></p> <p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children’s Social Care Services</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p><b>What barriers are there to sharing information where there are concerns about a child?</b></p> <p>Practitioners will be aware of the importance of sharing information in a timely way, particularly in the current circumstances. Any practitioner working with a child can share relevant sensitive personal information lawfully, including without consent, if it is necessary for the exercise of functions imposed by legislation such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safeguarding or promoting welfare</li> <li>• in order to keep a child safe from harm</li> <li>• to protect their physical, mental and emotional well-being</li> </ul> <p>The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information by those with safeguarding or welfare duties towards children for the purposes of keeping children safe.</p>

	<p>Practitioners are reminded that if they are concerned about a safeguarding data sharing matter, they are advised to seek advice from legal representatives where appropriate, from other practitioners, or from the information governance lead, in line with guidance on information sharing for practitioners providing safeguarding services (<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice</a>)</p>
<p><b>Local authority children's services: coronavirus (COVID-19)</b>        What local authority children's services need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p>	<p>Link added to gov.uk on 17 June 2020, which provides a link to various pieces of existing guidance.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-childrens-services-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=9741cb3b-6cc1-4355-b3f8-60c6f4f676bc&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&amp;utm_content=immediate">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-childrens-services-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=9741cb3b-6cc1-4355-b3f8-60c6f4f676bc&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&amp;utm_content=immediate</a></p>
<p><b>Complaints and Representations</b></p>	<p>The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 Regulations amended the statutory timeframes (under the Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006) for the review process to require local authorities to comply with the existing timeframes <b>OR AS SOON AS IS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE</b>. These amendments allow more time for the review to be carried out, because it may not be possible for the review process to be carried out within the existing statutory timeframe during the outbreak. There is a provision to extend this to include any representations made <b>before 25 September 2020</b>.</p>
<p><b>Responding to Abuse and Neglect</b></p>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children's Social Care Services</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p>Social workers or police needing to visit a setting and investigate child protection concerns should make a judgement about visiting that balances considerations of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>risks to children and young people</li> </ul>

- risks to families
- risks to the workforce
- guidance on social distancing and hygiene
- statutory responsibilities, including safeguarding

#### **What support should local authorities be providing to children who have a social worker?**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children remains of paramount importance. For many parents, carers and children, access to support, including the services offered by other safeguarding partners, educational settings or the third sector, can be invaluable in helping to keep children safe and families supported. Multi-agency support should continue, with appropriate flexibility in how this is delivered, for example, via telephone or online support rather than face-to-face meetings where necessary. Where face-to-face contact can be provided safely, this is expected.

Local authorities should be conscious of reduced protective factors from abuse and neglect available to children and families and the increased stressors as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) and work with local safeguarding partners to ensure continuity and consistency of support.

#### **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Guidance for infection prevention and control in children's social care settings, including the specific circumstances where PPE should be used, can be found in the guidance on **Safe Working in Education, Childcare and Children's Social Care Settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

	<p><b>What if families refuse entry to social workers?</b></p> <p>Where families feel anxious about infection risks and are reluctant to engage with social workers, social workers should explain why it is essential that they have access to the home, or that they see and speak to the children, to ensure they are safe and well. Visits should be face-to-face where possible and should be sufficient to meet the intended purpose of the visit whether that is safeguarding or promotion of the child’s welfare.</p> <p>Social workers should consider the different needs of babies and young children, as well as disabled children, who may not have verbal communication abilities.</p> <p>It is also important to note that existing general duties on local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in need in their area remain unchanged. This is also the case for duties under section 47 of the same Act as regards investing cases where the local authority has cause to suspect that a child is or is likely to suffer significant harm.</p> <p>Where families refuse access for other reasons and there is a risk to the life of the child or a likelihood of immediate serious harm, local authorities should follow the immediate protection procedures set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children.</p>
<p><b>Get Help with Technology During Coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></p>	<p>Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children’s social care.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p>
<p><b>Early Help</b></p>	<p><b>Covid-19 and early intervention: evidence, challenges and risks relating to virtual and digital delivery (Early</b></p>

	<p><b>Intervention Foundation (EIF)</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.eif.org.uk/report/covid-19-and-early-intervention-evidence-challenges-and-risks-relating-to-virtual-and-digital-delivery#163961_20200423100957">https://www.eif.org.uk/report/covid-19-and-early-intervention-evidence-challenges-and-risks-relating-to-virtual-and-digital-delivery#163961_20200423100957</a></p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Government social distancing requirements apply.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a></p> <p><b>BASW Professional Practice Guidance for Home Visits During Covid-19 Pandemic</b>  <a href="https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-practice-guidance-home-visits-during-covid-19-pandemic">https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-practice-guidance-home-visits-during-covid-19-pandemic</a></p>
<b>Referrals</b>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children’s Social Care Services</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p><i>Child protection conferences and multi-agency front door assessments of referrals are particularly critical to protect vulnerable children and young people. [The Government] recognise that there may be instances where multi-agency working will need to be done differently during this period, within the framework set out in law and statutory guidance, and [the Government] encourage local authorities and safeguarding partners (including the police and health service) to make use of alternative technological solutions in the circumstances to ensure they are able to make timely decisions in the best interests of the child.</i></p>
<b>Child Protection Enquiries - Section 47 Children Act 1989</b>	<p>Government social distancing requirements apply.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a></p> <p><b>BASW Professional Practice Guidance for Home Visits During Covid-19 Pandemic</b>  <a href="https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-practice-guidance-home-visits-during-covid-19-pandemic">https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-practice-guidance-home-visits-during-covid-19-pandemic</a></p>
<b>Child Protection Conferences/Child</b>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children’s Social Care Services</b></p>



<p><b>Protection Plans/Core Group Meetings</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p>Multi-agency working is crucial to ensuring the protection of children at risk of harm, and multi-agency child protection conferences should, therefore, go ahead, using video conferencing or conference calling solutions where appropriate.</p> <p>The Government welcome the commitment shown by local authorities and their partners in ensuring that vital information-sharing and joint risk assessments continue to benefit children.</p> <p>Child protection conferences and multi-agency front door assessments of referrals are particularly critical to protect vulnerable children. [The Government] recognise that there may be instances where multi-agency working will need to be done differently during this period, within the timeframe set out in law and statutory guidance, and [the Government] encourage local authorities and safeguarding partners (including the police and health service) to make use of alternative technological solutions in the circumstances to ensure they are able to make timely decisions in the best interests of the child.</p>
<p><b>Child Abduction</b></p>	<p><b>COVID-19: Temporary Amendments to the Practice Guidance on Case Management and Mediation of International Child Abduction Proceedings</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-Draft-Temporary-Amendments-to-Child-Abduction-Practice-Guidance-Final-26.03.2020.pdf">https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-Draft-Temporary-Amendments-to-Child-Abduction-Practice-Guidance-Final-26.03.2020.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b></p>	<p><b>Child Sexual Abuse in the Context of Covid-19 (Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse)</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.csacentre.org.uk/coronavirus/">https://www.csacentre.org.uk/coronavirus/</a></p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children’s Social Care Services</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p>Early years setting remain open for all children.</p>

During the period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face to face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education. Pupils who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school.

The definition of vulnerable children and young people includes children who have a social worker, an education, health and care (EHC) plan or who may be vulnerable for another reason at local discretion (“otherwise vulnerable”).

Schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents and carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place.

If vulnerable children and young people do not attend, schools should:

- work together with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) to follow up with the parent or carer to explore the reason for absence, discussing their concerns using supporting guidance considering the child’s circumstances and their best interests
- work together with the local authority, social worker (where applicable) and other relevant partners to encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person’s attendance would be appropriate

Where schools grant a leave of absence to a vulnerable child or young person they should still speak to parents and carers, and social workers (where applicable) to explore the reasons for this and any concerns raised. The discussions should focus on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.

Where providers have had to close, they should inform the local authority to discuss alternative arrangements for

vulnerable children and young people and work towards reopening as soon as possible, where feasible to do so.

Regardless of setting, schools are encouraged to work collaboratively with other schools and education providers and other local partners (including the local authority, social workers, police, youth services, key workers) to maximise opportunities for face-to-face provision for vulnerable children.

The Government have also published guidance on **Improving school attendance: support for schools and local authorities** which includes guidance on the responsibilities of virtual school heads (VSHs) in monitoring the attendance of looked-after children and previously looked-after children, and securing appropriate interventions for those who are persistently absent.

This guidance sets out expectations on social workers and family support workers to convey high expectations for attendance, make sure school attendance is prioritised within multi-agency plans and support children and families to overcome barriers to attendance where needed. The Government have published a **toolkit of resources and guidance to help social workers in conversations with children and families about school attendance** .

This is especially important when schools are open for vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers only: there is even more need to have eyes on vulnerable children and young people and, where they do not attend school, social workers should work together with others to address concerns and encourage attendance.

Where individuals who are self-isolating are within our definition of vulnerable, it is important that schools put systems in place to keep in contact with them, offer pastoral support and check they are able to access education support.

When a vulnerable child and young person is asked to self-isolate, schools should notify their social worker (if they have one). School leaders should then agree with the social worker the best way to maintain contact and offer support to the vulnerable child or young person. Social workers should be in communication with schools and, where possible, engaged in conversations with the school and parents to put in place strategies to reduce the risk of exclusion.

The Government have reiterated to schools that they should, as far as possible, avoid permanently excluding any pupil with an Education, Health and Care Plan or a Looked-After Child. Where a looked after child is at risk of exclusion, the VSH, working with others, should consider what additional assessment and support needs to be put in place to help the school address the causes of the child's behaviour and prevent the need for exclusion, and make any additional arrangements to support the child's ongoing education in the event of an exclusion.

Where a child has been permanently excluded, this will include rapidly securing new educational provision in line with the child's needs and Personal Education Plan (PEP). Where a school has concerns about the behaviour of a previously looked after child which could result in the child being excluded, advice may be sought from the VSH on strategies to support the child to avoid exclusion.

All children deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

Where a child's GP or clinician has confirmed they are still considered clinically extremely vulnerable, they should follow shielding advice and should not attend school, because the risk of exposure to the virus in their area may currently be very high.

A child or member of staff who lives in the same household as someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable can still attend the setting, unless advised otherwise by an individual letter from the NHS or a specialist doctor. **Risk assessments for children and young people with an education, health and care plan**

Following the March closure of schools and colleges to most pupils and students, local authorities and settings were asked to undertake risk assessments for children and young people with EHC plans. These risk assessments are no longer required.

Pupil level risk assessments, which were used last spring, should not be used to filter children and young people in or out of attendance, but could be helpful to prioritise the amount of time in school children can get if full time

	<p>attendance for all is not possible.</p> <p>Local authorities and educational settings should make their own judgements as to whether risk assessments continue to be useful for each child or young person after they have returned full time. They may for example prove useful to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help identify any additional support that pupils need in order to make a successful return to full-time education</li> <li>• to help reassure pupils, families, and staff that it is safe for the pupil to be welcomed back to their setting in the event that children and young people have to self-isolate; or if there is a local outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19)</li> </ul> <p>Where a child or young person with an education, health and care (EHC) plan has a social worker, the social worker should be involved in maintaining any risk assessment. Where a child is looked-after, the local authority virtual school head should also be involved.</p> <p><b>Alternative provision (AP) schools and providers</b></p> <p>Alternative provision (AP) settings should remain open and allow vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend. The Government expect AP schools to actively encourage those they consider to be most vulnerable – identified in partnership with local services – to attend provision. They should provide robust remote learning for those who are not attending.</p> <p>On occasion AP schools will encounter circumstances where they cannot provide their usual interventions and provision at adequate staffing ratios, or with staff with vital specialist training. In these circumstances they should seek to resume as close as possible to full time provision as soon as possible for all children of critical workers and those deemed vulnerable.</p>
<p><b>Online Safety</b></p>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Support for Parents and Carers to Keep Children Safe Online</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online</a></p> <p>This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thinkuknow</b> by National Crime Agency-CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online - <a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/</a></li> <li>• <b>Childnet</b> has developed <a href="https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation">guidance for parents and carers</a> (<a href="https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation">https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation</a>) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as <a href="https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online">guidance on keeping under-fives safe online</a> (<a href="https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online">https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online</a>)</li> <li>• <b>Parent Info</b> is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations <a href="https://parentinfo.org/">https://parentinfo.org/</a></li> <li>• <b>NSPCC</b> has <a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety">guidance for parents and carers</a> to help keep children safe online <a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety</a></li> <li>• <b>UK Safer Internet Centre</b> provides tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online <a href="https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers">https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers</a> - you can also <a href="https://reportharmfulcontent.com/">report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre</a> <a href="https://reportharmfulcontent.com/">https://reportharmfulcontent.com/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Children's Commissioner for England</b> Parents' digital safety and wellbeing kit (PDF) <a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cco-parents-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cco-parents-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf</a></p> <p>Children's guide to staying safe online (PDF) <a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cco-childrens-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/cco-childrens-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf</a></p>
<p><a href="#">Children from Abroad, including Victims of Modern Slavery, Trafficking and</a></p>	<p><b>Support for Modern Slavery Victims Affected by Coronavirus</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-for-modern-slavery-victims-affected-by-">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-for-modern-slavery-victims-affected-by-</a></p>

<b>Exploitation</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status/coronavirus-act-2020-status-table">coronavirus?utm_source=17df47c9-8a57-41b6-a464-b9104fbdd67d&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&amp;utm_content=immediate</a>
<b>Parents with Mental Health Problems</b>	<p>The Coronavirus Act 2020 (<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</a>) contains provisions to make temporary amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable existing mental health legislation powers to detain and treat patients who need urgent treatment for a mental health disorder and are a risk to themselves or others, to be implemented using just 1 doctor’s opinion (rather than the current 2). This will ensure that those who are a risk to themselves or others still get the treatment they need, when fewer doctors are available to undertake this function</li> <li>• temporarily allow extension or removal of time limits in mental health legislation to allow for greater flexibility where services are less able to respond.</li> </ul> <p>These temporary changes will only be brought into force if staff numbers are severely adversely affected during the pandemic period, and provide some flexibility to help support the continued safe running of services under the Mental Health Act. See <b>Coronavirus Act 2020: Status Table</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status/coronavirus-act-2020-status-table">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status/coronavirus-act-2020-status-table</a></p> <p><b>COVID-19: Guidance for the Public on Mental Health and Wellbeing (Public Health England)</b> – provides advice on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing</a></p>
<b>Parents with Learning Disabilities</b>	<p><b>COVID-19: Supporting Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities</b></p> <p>Guides for families and professionals supporting autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. (Social Care Institute for Excellence)  <a href="https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/learning-disabilities-autism?utm_campaign=11483184_SCIELine%2017%20April&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=SOCIAL%20CARE%20INSTITUTE%20FOR%20EXCELLENCE%20&amp;utm_sfid=003G000002MVHYVIA5&amp;utm_role=Manager&amp;dm_i=405,6U4HC,PCCCOF,REEKD,1">https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/learning-disabilities-autism?utm_campaign=11483184_SCIELine%2017%20April&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=SOCIAL%20CARE%20INSTITUTE%20FOR%20EXCELLENCE%20&amp;utm_sfid=003G000002MVHYVIA5&amp;utm_role=Manager&amp;dm_i=405,6U4HC,PCCCOF,REEKD,1</a></p>

<b>Visits to Prisons by Children</b>	<b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Prisons</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons</a>
<b>Visits to Psychiatric Wards and Facilities by Children</b>	Government social distancing requirements apply.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>
<b>Domestic Violence and Abuse</b>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Domestic Abuse</b> - advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse</a></p> <p><b>COVID-19: guidance on isolation for domestic abuse safe-accommodation settings</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-provision">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-provision</a></p> <p><b>Children, Domestic Abuse and Coronavirus (Children's Commissioner)</b></p> <p>A policy briefing on domestic abuse and its effects on children particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.   <a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/children-domestic-abuse-and-coronavirus/">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/children-domestic-abuse-and-coronavirus/</a></p> <p><b>SafeLives</b> is providing guidance and support to professionals and those working in the domestic abuse sector, as well as additional advice for those at risk.   <a href="http://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19">http://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19</a></p>
<b>Missing Children</b>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children's Social Care Services</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p>Local authorities have a statutory duty under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 to investigate if they have reasonable</p>



	<p>cause to suspect that a child in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. This duty would apply to a missing child in their area, regardless of where they went missing from. This can be from home or from a care setting if they are a looked-after child.</p> <p>Responsibilities to missing children and children at risk of going missing remain unchanged and the Government expect local authorities to use their judgement on a case by case basis, to find suitable ways to meet their statutory duties, guided by the principles set out in both this Guidance and the <b>Children Who Run Away or Go Missing From Home or Care</b> guidance. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care</a></p> <p>Local authorities should continue to refer to the statutory guidance on the <b>Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Child Victims of Modern Slavery</b> regarding action to mitigate risks to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children</a></p>
<p><b>Agency Roles and Responsibilities</b></p>	<p>Professional Advice for Health Visiting (Institute of Health Visiting)</p> <p>iHV have launched a series of COVID-19 advice documents to support the safe and effective delivery of health visiting practice during the global pandemic. These resources have been developed in partnership with Public Health England by the professional team at the Institute of Health Visiting. The new documents in iHV's <b><u>Delivering the Health Visitor Healthy Child Programme During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Professional Advice to Support Best Practice</u></b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Antenatal Contact</li> <li>• The New Birth Visit</li> <li>• Virtual Contacts by Health Visitors</li> <li>• Working with Vulnerable Families</li> <li>• <u>Family Perinatal Mental Health</u></li> </ul>

	<p><a href="https://ihv.org.uk/for-health-visitors/resources/resource-library-a-z/covid-19-coronavirus-guidance/">https://ihv.org.uk/for-health-visitors/resources/resource-library-a-z/covid-19-coronavirus-guidance/</a></p> <p><b>RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19</b>          You must only make a report under RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an accident or incident at work has, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus. This must be reported as a dangerous occurrence.</li> <li>• a worker has been diagnosed as having COVID 19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a case of disease.</li> <li>• a worker dies as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a <b>work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent.</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/riddor-reporting-coronavirus.htm">https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/riddor-reporting-coronavirus.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Child Death Reviews</b></p>	<p><b>Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Children’s Social Care Services</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-childrens-social-care</a></p> <p><b>Notifying the child safeguarding practice review panel</b></p> <p>Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide a serious incident notification of all incidents where a child dies or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. Serious incident notifications should be sent to the Panel within five working days of the local authority becoming aware of the incident.</p> <p>The online notification system remains active and available 24 hours a day.</p> <p><b>Rapid Reviews</b></p>

	<p>A rapid review continues to be a vital tool for learning from serious incidents locally and nationally. Whilst the non-statutory timescales were relaxed to support safeguarding partners' capacity during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (from 1 April 2020), it is important that rapid reviews are once again held in a timely manner. Therefore, from 1 October 2020, the 15-day expectation for undertaking and reporting a rapid review is reinstated and should be followed as stated in the <b>Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: Practice Guidance</b>.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-practice-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-practice-guidance</a></p> <p><b>Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews</b></p> <p>Local child safeguarding practice reviews should be completed and published as soon as possible and no later than six months from the date of the decision to initiate a review. Safeguarding partners must also send a copy of the full report no later than seven working days in advance of publication to the Panel and the Secretary of State for Education at:</p> <p><a href="mailto:NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk">NationalReviewPanel@education.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:mailbox.cpod@education.gov.uk">mailbox.cpod@education.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Guidance for Safe Recruitment, Selection and Retention for Staff and Volunteers</b></p>	<p><b>COVID-19: Changes to DBS ID Checking Guidelines</b></p> <p><b>DBS CHECKS</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-dbs-id-checking-guidelines</a></p> <p>To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS ID checking guidance will be changed for a temporary period.</p>

The change will enable:

- ID documents to be viewed over video link
- scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted

Please note, the change should only be implemented for urgent cases where it is not possible to follow the normal identity checking guidelines. The applicant must present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their employment or volunteering role.

**COVID-19: Free-of-charge DBS Applications and Fast-track Barred List Check Service**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-of-charge-dbs-applications-and-fast-track-barred-list-check-service>

**RIGHT TO WORK CHECKS**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Right to Work Checks**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-right-to-work-checks>

Employers must check that job applicants are allowed to do the type of work they're applying for in the UK. Right to work checks have been temporarily adjusted due to coronavirus (COVID-19). This is to make it easier for employers to carry them out.

The following temporary changes have been made:

- checks can now be carried out over video calls

- job applicants and existing workers can send scanned documents or a photo of documents for checks using email or a mobile app, rather than sending originals
- employers should use the [Employer Checking Service](#) if a prospective or existing employee cannot provide any of the accepted documents

**How to make right to work checks: video**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-make-right-to-work-checks?utm\\_source=16e187c6-d366-48c8-b93f-f3acd004cb83&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-make-right-to-work-checks?utm_source=16e187c6-d366-48c8-b93f-f3acd004cb83&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)