

Information about Coronavirus and the impact on training 2020-21

Your LETTA experience during 2020-21 will be impacted by the Coronavirus. We are following the latest advice and guidance issued by the UK Government and Public Health England. We will continue to take all appropriate and necessary steps, as required by the official advice, to keep our community safe.

However, we are committed to providing you with an excellent learning experience and comprehensive support to enable you to be successful.

For the autumn term, LETTA is planning an online centre-based programme. The planned sessions that generally take place on Thursdays will initially be online. We intend to arrange small group tutorials online and possibly face to face. The LETTA team will provide information and guidance. School-based learning will be impacted by the routines in place at each school, to enable safe teaching and learning for children and staff.

Materials to support your learning will be available on Google Drive, and for the PGCE, the virtual learning environment at Sheffield Hallam University.

The decisions that are made will ensure that you receive the support you need in the safest possible way.

We want you to feel as safe as possible while you're learning. However, we do recognise that some of our trainees with protected characteristics are associated with greater vulnerability to Covid-19. Our risk assessment process will take this into account and we will make reasonable adjustments accordingly.

Face-to-face learning

The timing of face to face learning activities on centre-based training will be assessed as the course develops and in liaison with school partners and facilitators.

In preparation and in order to keep everyone safe, group sizes may be smaller to meet social distancing guidelines. Once underway, we would expect you to attend all face to face learning activities. You will need to undertake a risk assessment at the start of the year to support LETTA planning.

Most sessions will be delivered 'live' on a virtual learning platform. In addition, there may be pre-recorded videos by some facilitators. You will have opportunities for interactive engagement and discussion.

There will be group tutorials either online and / or face to face if the current situation allows.

We anticipate centre-based learning to be online during the autumn term. We will assess the situation as the term progresses.

Session materials will be available on Google Drive and, for the PGCE, on Blackboard.

Training room

Our training room at Stebon Primary School is prepared for face to face activities when these occur. Safety measures will include reduced group sizes and enhanced cleaning and hygiene regimes, Trainees will be provided with instructions and information prior to its use.

School placements

During the training year, there are usually two additional placements: 1. Another age phase 2. A second school, covering the age range of your course. LETTA will be working with partners to ensure that placements go ahead. Some may take place slightly later than usual. You will be informed of planned placement dates during your course induction. However, these may change following partner liaison.

If for some appropriate and relevant reason, a placement cannot be continued due to the current circumstances, then LETTA will take action to ensure you can still continue on your course. There may be an opportunity to resume your placement but this will be dependent on the time and nature of the circumstances.

Visiting trainees on placements

Department of Education guidance for [full opening of schools](#) was published on 2nd July 2020 and states that for visitors to schools:

'Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between schools, but school leaders will want to consider how to minimise the number of visitors to the school where possible. Where it is necessary to use supply staff and to welcome visitors to the school such as peripatetic teachers, those individuals will be expected to comply with the school's arrangements for managing and minimising risk, including taking particular care to maintain distance from other staff and pupils.'

ITT trainees are included in the definition of a **critical worker**. ITT mentors and tutors are considered **visitors** to a school, and are not critical workers.

Considering the above and consulting with partners, LETTA aims to minimise the number of visits to a school, and as such monitoring your progress will be undertaken remotely. This will be kept under close review and will be guided by responses from the DfE and Public Health England.

If all involved with the placement deem a physical visit is needed, then local risk assessment procedures will be followed.

Implications for compliance on QTS courses

In light of Covid-19, the Department of Education has amended the ITT criteria and the latest version can be found [on gov.uk](#).

FAQs

What do I do if I develop symptoms of Coronavirus or come in contact with someone with Coronavirus?

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection, however mild, you should stay at home for the required number of days from when your symptoms started, following government guidance. If you come into contact with someone with confirmed Covid-19 you will need to self-isolate. Please do not worry about not being at school or on placement if you need to self-isolate. It is important that you do not go to school during the self-isolation period.

Please notify LETTA of your absence and communicate closely with your school through your mentor and Head Teacher and follow any notification arrangements that may be set by your school and LETTA in relation to your self-isolation.

If your symptoms worsen during home isolation please contact NHS 111 online.

If you live in other shared accommodation and need to avoid contact with other people please follow the Public Health England guidance on what avoiding contact with other people means in practice.

I am a carer for elderly relatives or children

If you have any concerns about family members regarding the COVID-19 virus please call the free NHS111 telephone helpline. The current situation is very fluid, and we are frequently gaining new information. Please attend school / placements as planned. However, if you have concerns about your welfare and those around you please discuss this with your school and with LETTA.

I am in a group defined by the NHS as clinically vulnerable to Covid-19

If you are in a group of people in the UK defined by the NHS as clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable to Covid-19 you might be concerned about missing school and centre-based learning activities. We would like to maintain in contact with you to understand more about the decisions you might need to make and the type of support you may need. Clinically vulnerable people include all those who were told to shield at home during the pandemic, up to 1st August 2020 as well as people who have one or more of the conditions listed below:

- A cancer diagnosis and/or have had treatment for cancer in the last 12 months
- A lung condition, e.g. asthma
- At higher risk of infection either due to a medical condition or due to medication, e.g immunosuppressant medicine
- A diagnosis of diabetes or heart, kidney or liver disease
- A brain or nerve disease, e.g. multiple sclerosis
- Age 70 or older
- Obesity
- Pregnancy

Sources of Information

For Official advice and information on COVID-19

- [NHS Covid-19 website](#)
- [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) - updated advice
- [NHS advice](#)
- [111 service](#) – information about the service