

Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan

Stepping measures up and down

'All education and childcare settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) describing what they would do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce any measures described in this document to help break chains of transmission.' (Department for Education; Contingency Framework: education and childcare settings, updated 7th January 2022)

'Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children, any measures in settings should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.' (Department for Education; Actions for early Years and Childcare Providers During the Covid-19 Pandemic, updated January 2022)

At all times, the school shall:

- Ensure good hygiene
- Maintain enhanced cleaning regimes using standard cleaning products such as detergents and disinfectants
- Keep occupied spaces well-ventilated
- Monitor air quality using CO2 monitors to maintain a balance between heat and clean air
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed case of Covid-19

Our Response

In the event of a confirmed case (and every case) of Covid-19, a member of the senior leadership team will report the case to the Department for Education and Hampshire Services for Young Children within 14 days.

We will seek public health advice if a child, pupil, student or staff member is admitted to hospital with Covid-19. We will do this by phoning the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687, option 1, or in line with other local arrangements.

In the event of an outbreak, a member of the senior leadership team will contact Hampshire Health Protection Board to report cases and to seek advice on taking appropriate action. When thresholds are reached, school staff will respond quickly and will follow operational guidance as detailed in the school's Covid Risk Assessment to reinforce testing, hygiene and

ventilation measures. In the event that we are advised to return to working in bubbles, we will refer to those operational measures detailed in our Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

When settings should consider extra action (thresholds)

For most education and childcare settings, extra actions will be considered when whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for Covid-19 within a 10 day period
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for Covid-19 within a 10 day period

Actions to consider once a threshold is reached

At the point of reaching a threshold, we will review and reinforce the **testing, hygiene and ventilation** measures already in place. We will also consider:

- Whether activities can take place outdoors
- Ways to improve ventilation indoors, without compromising thermal comfort
- One off enhanced cleaning with the fogger, focusing on touch points

If we are concerned about transmission, we will seek additional public health advice from the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with local arrangements.

In extreme cases and as a last resort, where all other risk mitigations have not broken the chains of in-school transmission, the local DPH may advise introducing attendance restrictions such as remote learning for a class or group.

High-quality remote learning will be provided for all pupils well enough to learn from home. On site provision will in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by staff.

Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email once a decision has been made. When measures are stepped up we may limit any or all of the following:

- Transition or taster days
- Visitors (including prospective parents)
- Parental attendance in the school
- School events

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups and minimise the risk of infection
- Face coverings in communal areas

Prioritising Education

Our overarching objective is to maximise the number of children in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission will be weighed against any educational drawbacks. The senior leadership team will keep all measures under regular review and will lift any stepping up measures as soon as the evidence supports us to safely do so, whilst following local and national guidance.

Children

Children previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should attend their setting and should follow the same coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

Attendance restrictions

High quality face-to-face education remains a priority. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort:

- following public health advice where other recommended measures have not broken the chain of transmission
- across an area, on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable children
- Children of critical workers

In all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable children. The updated definition of vulnerable children is:

- Those with a social worker
- Those with an education, health and care plan
- A group of children considered locally, including by settings and local authorities, to be 'otherwise vulnerable'
- Children known to children's social services in the past

- Children whose home circumstances might be particularly challenging because of domestic abuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues and drug and alcohol addiction

Education and support for pupils at home

Pupils who are required to stay at home will receive remote education. We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school (for more information see the school's remote education policy).

Safeguarding

Throughout the pandemic as well as in the event of an outbreak, the senior leadership team will take appropriate steps to ensure that either the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is available on site; if this is not possible, we will ensure the DSL or DDSL is available by telephone/video call to support staff in the event of a safeguarding concern. If the DSL is not on site, she can be reached on 07784 428 254.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision

We will ensure that children, staff and families are supported to keep children safe, particularly if it is necessary to return to remote learning, in which case we will return to operational measures set out in our Covid-19 risk assessment.

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