

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan



UPDATED JULY 2021
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Approved by: Helen Mullinger

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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the schools operational guidance from step 4, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

2. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

3. Other measures

If recommended, we will limit:

- Educational visits and visitors to school
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances and assemblies

3.1 Class Bubbles

Government guidance states that schools are no longer recommended to maintain consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we will no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

This outbreak management plan covers the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

If necessary, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for visitors (unless exempt)

3.2 Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

From September 2021 when children return to school, it is not expected that a whole class will need to self-isolate if there is a positive case in school, only the person who has tested positive and close contacts who are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Government guidance states:

'From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.'

'Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.'

'Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.'

If there are several confirmed cases within 14 days, this may be considered an outbreak. In this event, school will contact DFE helpline who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team and where necessary, advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of the outbreak management plan.

3.3 Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the 'stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

If someone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they should be sent home and follow public health advice with regard PCR testing.

4. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils

➤ Children of critical workers

➤ Children with EHCP

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

➤ Vulnerable pupils

➤ Children of critical workers

➤ Children with EHCP

4.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and 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, as outlined in our Remote Learning Policy.

The school will continue to provide meals for those children attending school or lunch vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

4.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities during term time to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

If further restrictions are recommended, only breakfast club will be available as children can be separated into bubbles. This is not possible to do with after school clubs.

4.4 Admitting children into school

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school, school can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. The decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

4.5 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

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