

Last Reviewed on: September 2021

To be Reviewed: Termly

Responsible person: Principal

COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Seeking public health advice	1
3. Testing	2
4. Face coverings	2
5. Shielding	2
6. Other measures	2
7. Attendance restrictions	3

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published 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), directors 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:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
- Threshold for outbreak declaration:
- There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- 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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS
- To manage the reopening of school after a holiday or lockdown

2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. Janice Mitchell will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or the local Public Health Team.

3. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- Testing will be in line with Local Public Health recommendations
- Will take place in our on-site testing centre or a local testing centre provided by Public Health
- Students who are in a class or band or year group where there has been at least one positive case – who have parental permission for testing

4. Face coverings

If recommended by public health, pupils, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas
- May be asked to wear face coverings in classrooms where rates suggest this is a necessary precaution

And when there has been a confirmed case within a class or band the following measure may be taken:

- Will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity – this would be in place for 10 days in the first instance, unless further cases are confirmed within the class/band during this period of time in which case measures may be extended

5. 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.

6. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via MyEd / text services once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days

- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups (although zoning is currently in place for year groups due to building works)
- On site testing
- Home testing requests
- PCR testing requests
- Public Health may carry out PCR testing on our school site for students if an outbreak is confirmed and they deem this a necessary intervention, the Academy will support Public Health with this process

7. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section. Public Health and the Local Authority will be consulted before this measure is taken.

Where there is a positive case within the household, students will be required to stay home as per national guidance, 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

7.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for (if permitted by current Government guidance):

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

7.2 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 or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

7.3 Wraparound care

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

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

7.4 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.

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 appropriate, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Ensure 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