

# COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan



February 2022

Approved by: Fiona Seddon

Last reviewed on: 21.2.22

Next review due by: When needed

## 1. Introduction

This plan has been updated to reflect the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response Living with COVID-19 plan and subsequent updates to [actions for schools](#) and the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, 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), United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or the national government.

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

- 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) or a variant under investigation (VUI)
- If thresholds are exceeded an outbreak occurs, we will work with Telford & Wrekin Health Protection Hub (HPH) to help identify individuals who may have been in contact with known infectious individuals
- To help manage increased transmission of COVID-19 within the school

Updated guidance released by DfE on 29 November defines a threshold for after which extra measures should be imposed:

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

Close mixing for schools is outlined as including the following in schools:

- a form group or subject class
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity

Updated guidance requires parents to be informed when there is one positive case in a class/bubble, **however daily testing is no longer required.**

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH), United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks. They provide health protection support and advice to education and childcare settings.

**We will notify the HPH of all confirmed positive cases in staff and pupils using the online notification form reporting suspected or confirmed cases**

Role	Who
Production of the plan	Claire Whiting (Headteacher)
Authorisation of the plan	Claire Whiting (Headteacher) and Fiona Seddon (Chair of Governors)

Review and updating the plan in the light of new guidance and situations	Claire Whiting (Headteacher)
Implementation of the plan	Claire Whiting (Headteacher)

### 3. Shielding

We are aware of the CEV pupils and staff within the school setting and we will follow national guidance on CEV pupils and staff. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>.

Shielding is currently paused, staff and pupils in these groups should follow the advice for the general public unless otherwise advised by a specialist. In the event of a major outbreak or VoC that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding. Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are taken into account. Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government. 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.

We continue to follow the separate guidance for pregnant staff which suggests a risk assessment and further consideration for those 26 weeks pregnant and beyond. [covid-19-advice for pregnant employees](#)

### 4. New arrangements

Tracing close contacts and isolation:

- contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended;
- staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home;
- the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate has also ended;
- the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test is removed. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days;
- fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 are not required to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate is removed.

Face coverings

- face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas;
- face coverings may be reinstated in an outbreak as recommended by a director of public health.

#### Asymptomatic testing:

- staff and pupils in mainstream secondary and primary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population;
- The online ordering platform remains open for education settings to access lateral flow device (LFD) test kits free of charge, but should only be used if your setting is experiencing an outbreak and you have been advised to resume testing by a director of public health.

#### Control measures:

- these continue to be: ensuring good hygiene, cleaning regimes, ventilation and the following of public health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

#### Attendance:

- In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you 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;
- Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness);
- Remote education: where appropriate, you should support those who are self-isolating because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

### **5. Other measures**

In the instance of an outbreak within a bubble/class, year group, key stage or whole school, we would revert back to measures previously implemented to limit the transmission of the virus:

- Staggered start, lunch times and home times to minimise large gatherings
- Class bubbles of no more than 31 pupils
- Reduced items allowed to be brought into school: water bottles, packed lunch box (unless having a school dinner), reading book and reading diary in a book bag (or brought in a polypocket if child does not have a book bag) and medication only
- No sharing of equipment, children will be provided with individual stationery items
- No whole school assemblies
- PE and other activities where possible to be completed outdoors
- Social distancing will be encouraged wherever possible
- Adults running after school clubs, Breakfast Club or the Annex to keep bubbles separate
- More regular cleaning, schedule will be updated
- Staff to wear masks in corridors and spaces where social distancing may be difficult
- School lunch in the classroom
- Non-attendance of pupils and staff at breakfast clubs or after school clubs, if their class is in 'stepped up measures' or have triggered the 30% outbreak indicator.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents and other visitors coming into school
- Live performances

## **6. Attendance restrictions**

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

### **6.1 Eligibility to remain in school**

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils
- If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:
  - Vulnerable pupils
  - Children of critical workers

### **6.2 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 Remote Teaching Plan available on the academy website <https://redhill.ttsonline.net/> .

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

We will resume fortnightly wellbeing check in calls to support those most vulnerable who are learning from home.

### **6.3 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.

### **6.4 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.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by contacting them directly on their mobile phone numbers or via the school office.

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