

COVID-19 Management Policy September 2021

This policy has been drawn up with regard to the government guidelines concerning the opening of schools in September 2021. Government and NHS guidance in this policy is indented and italicised. Government guidance says:

We expect independent schools to follow the control measures set out in this guidance in the same way as state-funded schools, and health and safety legislation applies equally to independent schools.¹

We will continue to review regularly the situation in the school with regard to COVID-19 and revise this policy as needed in our particular circumstances and as required by government, noting that the guidance states:

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low.... Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

1. Drop-off and pick-up

The normal procedure for arriving and collecting children applies (*see Procedure for arriving and collecting children*)

2. Hand washing

Regular and thorough hand washing has become established and is a good habit for the children. This is much better done with soap and water than with hand sanitiser, however, hand sanitiser will continue to be available in classrooms that have no water.

3. Masks

It is not necessary or desirable for children or staff to wear masks at school.

If there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the school, staff and/or pupils may be advised to wear masks as a temporary measure.

Government guidance says:

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport.

4. Bubbles

There is no longer a requirement to maintain 'bubbles'; all pupils may now mix freely.

5. Cleaning

The cleaners will continue to clean toilets, basins, taps, light switches, bannisters and the handles of doors in communal areas every day.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

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6. Ventilation

All spaces should continue to be well-ventilated so teachers should open their classroom windows when they enter their rooms in the mornings and between lessons.

7. Attendance

All pupils are expected to attend daily as usual and the school should be advised daily of the reason for any absence. (See *Attendance, Punctuality and Registration Policy & Procedure*)

Government guidance says:

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance ... they will be recorded as code X.

Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they will be recorded as code 1 (illness).

8. Testing

Government guidance says:

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

[Schools] may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term ... Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Accordingly, test kits will be available to be collected from school from Friday 3rd September.

Testing is not compulsory.

9. In case of Coronavirus symptoms at school

- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with any of the recognised symptoms² of COVID-19, we will ask that they are taken home.
- If a child with symptoms is awaiting collection, they will wait in the medical room with the door closed and window open for ventilation, with appropriate adult supervision if required.
- If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use the adult toilet at the top of the reception stairs, which will be designated for their use only from the time the symptoms are identified.
- The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- The staff member who tends to the child will wear PPE and wash their hands thoroughly afterwards.
- In an emergency, call 999.

² Symptoms include temperature, loss of or change to sense of smell, a continuous dry cough but also, with more recent variants, a runny nose and a sore throat.

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- Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
- Where the pupil or staff member tests negative, they can return to school.

10. If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school

- Where the child or staff member tests positive, household members will need to isolate for 10 days.
- The tracing of contacts beyond the household will be done by NHS Test & Trace. Other pupils and staff do not need to isolate unless contacted by them.

11. Self-isolation

Government guidance says:

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, they should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, the pupil can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Guidance from the NHS on self-isolating:

It is a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are told to by NHS Test and Trace. You could be fined if you do not self-isolate.

If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.

Anyone you live with will also need to self-isolate at the same time.

You may need to self-isolate for longer if you get symptoms while self-isolating or your symptoms do not go away.

Government guidance says:

From 16th 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.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

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.

12. School Trips

School trips both in the UK and overseas can go ahead from September 2021, however, teachers planning trips should ensure that the school's insurance will cover the trip.

Government guidance says:

You should be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change

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during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.

You should speak to either your visit provider, commercial insurance company, or the risk protection arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available. Independent advice on insurance cover and options can be sought from the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) or Association of British Insurers (ABI).

You should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. [General guidance](#) about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the [Outdoor Education Advisory Panel \(OEAP\)](#).

Outbreak management plan

Government Guidance says:

You should have outbreak management plans outlining how you would operate if there were an outbreak in your school or local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

The school

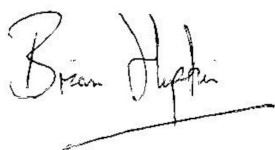
Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission.

If you have several confirmed cases within 14 days, you may have an outbreak.

You should call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan. You can reach them by calling the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

The [contingency framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) can recommend measures described in the contingency framework in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings – as part of their outbreak management responsibilities.

Remote Learning Contingency plan



Approved by the Chair of Trustees

Review date: as needed, when conditions and/or government guidance changes

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