

## Covid Outbreak Contingency Plan - Updated December 2021

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the school's 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.

From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Furthermore, 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.

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.

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.

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 some or all of the following thresholds are met:

- o There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely\* within a 10-day period
- o 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely\* test positive within a 10-day period

\*Mixed closely means that they are within a defined group for that year group. For Years 7 to 9, that is a form, for Years 10 to 13, that is a year group.

- 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

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. Jo Ormond will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687).

## **Prevention**

Maintaining the good practice employed during earlier stages of the pandemic can help to lower the risk of an outbreak. We should continue to employ as many of the precautions listed below as are practical:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. Sanitizing stations will be maintained at all entrances.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, focussed on cleaning frequently touched surfaces, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

If an outbreak occurs the following table sets out the steps that we will consider and the practicalities of carrying out those actions.

Situation	Actions to consider	Practicalities
Outbreak within a class	<ul> <li>Class returns to being a 'bubble' for 10 days</li> <li>Class accesses Assembly virtually for 10 days</li> <li>Face coverings in corridors and communal areas for 10 days</li> <li>Controlled areas at break and lunchtime for 10 days</li> <li>Controlled access to dining room; no mixing with other groups for 10 days. Segregated, marked, tables</li> <li>Blended learning for any children forced to work from home because of COVID</li> <li>In school testing available for students unable to test at home</li> <li>Review trips and other special events happening during the 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students, staff and parents are informed via Groupcall of the implications of being a 'bubble' for 10 days. (JO)</li> <li>Strict instructions for movement of restricted group around school are issued. (PAB)</li> <li>The complete list of 'actions' will be reviewed on a case by case basis. (SLT)</li> <li>Testing teams mobilised. (JO)</li> </ul>
Outbreak within a year group	<ul> <li>All forms return to being a 'bubble' for 10 days</li> <li>Year group accesses Assembly virtually for 10 days</li> <li>Face coverings in corridors and communal areas for 10 days</li> <li>Controlled areas at break and lunchtime for 10 days</li> <li>Controlled access to dining room; no mixing with other Year groups for 10 days. Segregated, marked, tables</li> <li>Blended learning for any children forced to work from home because of COVID</li> <li>In school testing available for students unable to test at home</li> <li>Review trips and other special events happening during the 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students, staff and parents are informed via Groupcall of the implications of being in 'bubbles' for 10 days. (JO)</li> <li>Strict instructions for movement of restricted groups around school are issued. (PAB)</li> <li>The complete list of 'actions' will be reviewed on a case by case basis. (SLT)</li> <li>Testing teams mobilised. (JO)</li> </ul>

Outbreak across a number of year groups	<ul> <li>The school returns to 'bubbles' for 10 days</li> <li>No assemblies for 10 days</li> <li>Face coverings in corridors and communal areas for 10 days</li> <li>Face coverings in classrooms if recommended by PHE</li> <li>Segregation at break and lunch time for 10 days</li> <li>Controlled dining room access for 10 days</li> <li>Blended learning for any children forced to work from home because of COVID</li> <li>In school testing available for students unable to test at home</li> <li>Review trips and other special events happening during the 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students, staff and parents are informed via Groupcall of the implications of being in 'bubbles' for 10 days. (JO)</li> <li>Revised timetable issued that uses form room as 'base' teaching room. (PAB)</li> <li>The complete list of 'actions' will be reviewed on a case by case basis. (SLT)</li> <li>Testing teams mobilised. (JO)</li> </ul>
Outbreak among the staff	<ul> <li>Staffroom returns to distanced working only for 10 days</li> <li>Face coverings worn in communal areas for 10 days</li> <li>Meetings are held virtually for 10 days</li> <li>Review trips and other special events happening during the 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Staff informed of restrictions to contain outbreak via email and briefing document. (RWB/PAB)</li> <li>Furniture in staff room rearranged (if required) (site team).</li> </ul>
Other Measures		
Attendance restrictions	Should attendance restrictions be required (as a last resort), we would prioritise the following, in this order:  • Vulnerable pupils and pupils of critical workers  • Pupils in Years 11 and 13  • Pupils in Year 10 and 12  • Pupils in Year 7  • Pupils in Years 8 & 9	<ul> <li>Staff, students and parents informed of move to remote learning (RWB/JO)</li> <li>Timetable for supervision of students still attending school drawn up and shared (PAB)</li> </ul>

		Protocols for online learning (reminder) sent to staff, students and parents. (PAB)
Extra-curricular activities	<ul> <li>Review all trips, visits and off-site educational activities</li> <li>Review any situations where parents are attending events at school</li> <li>Review inter-school fixtures</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use Groupcall to keep all parents, students and staff informed (JO/PAB)</li> <li>Liaise with Head of PE/Games to consider school fixtures and activities (PAB/TJB)</li> </ul>