



# Oakham Church of England Primary & The Parks School

Passion, Fellowship, Pride, Humility, Perseverance, Hope, Purpose & Thankfulness

## COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan

Updated 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

## **SCHOOL SUMMARY**

Our school will follow the latest Local Authority COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan for Education Settings. This plan is based on the Contingency Framework, Contain Framework, Schools Operational Guidance and Actions for Early Years and Childcare Providers. It reflects the latest guidance at the time it was written. Due to changes in national guidance for close contacts of positive cases, not all NHS and GOV.UK guidance found online yet reflects the latest advice.

This plan is intended to enable agencies in the Local Authority to prevent, reduce, manage, and suppress outbreaks of COVID-19 infection across education settings in our area. This plan relates to the control of COVID 19 outbreaks at early years settings, primaries and secondaries schools including special schools and 16-19 academies.

## **Risk assessments**

We will regularly review and update our risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in our school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls based on these revised guidance are effective and working as planned. This will be done regularly from the beginning of the Spring Term.

## **Mixing and 'bubbles'**

The DfE no longer recommends that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch. We will make sure our contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. To help us make these decisions we will refer to the latest Local Authority COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan for Education Settings.

All schools require contingency plans outlining what we would do if children, pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we would operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. 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.**

## **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 our school, **we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if**, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

## **Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school. A director of public health might advise our school that face coverings

should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government’s COVID-19 response ‘[Living with COVID-19](#)’. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people’s education remains.

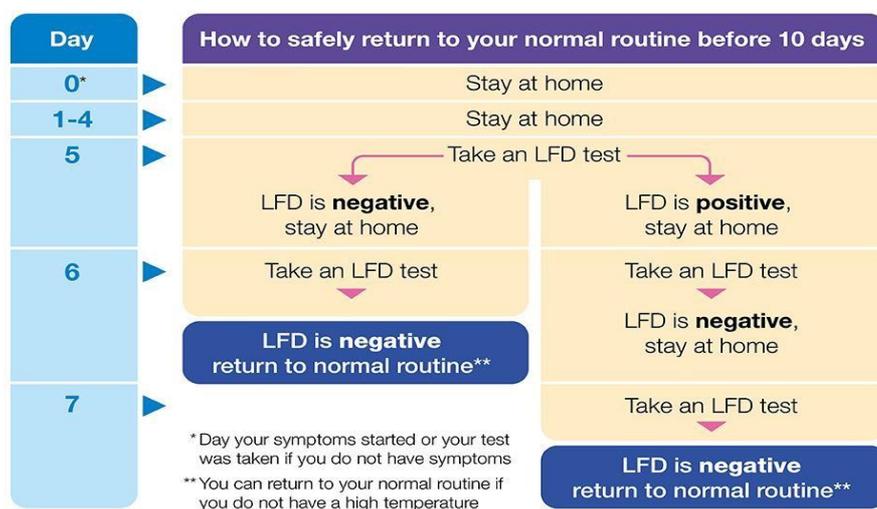
The Government has removed the guidance for staff and pupils in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

The Government has also removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, their **strong advice remains that individuals who test positive should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days**, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, close contacts of a positive Covid-19 case are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests; these pupils should attend school as usual.

**Whilst the law has changed to remove the legal obligation to self-isolate, the school expects staff and pupils to follow the updated government guidance to still self-isolate if they Covid-19 symptoms or a positive test result.**

The following diagram outlines what to do once you have received a positive Covid-19 test result (PCR or lateral flow):



The key symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A new continuous cough.
- A high temperature.
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell.

Our school will continue to provide hand cleaning opportunities and promote good hygiene to lower the transmission of any virus. We will continue to operate an enhanced cleaning provision; all occupied spaces will be well ventilated, but we are mindful of ensuring that all teaching spaces are comfortable.

### **Stepping measures up and down.**

Our school will continue to follow public health advice; in the event of an increased number of cases this may include the reintroduction of some of our previous actions.

We have contingency plans outlining what we would do if children, pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we would operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. 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.

For most school it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. Information on what circumstances might lead you to consider taking additional action, and the steps you should work through, can be found in the contingency framework. The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. We will follow the procedures outlined in the Local Authority COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan for Education Settings.

The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by school leaders as an indication for when to step up measures if they are concerned.

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

### **Current control measures.**

We will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow latest advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

## **1. We will ensure good hygiene for everyone**

### **Hand hygiene:**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now be regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

### **Respiratory hygiene:**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important in our school.

### **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE):**

Most staff in our school will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.

## **2. We will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents**

We will continue to have an enhanced cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

## **3. We will keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

When our school is in operation, we will ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. We will identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of our risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.

*Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). We will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.*

### **Other considerations**

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children will attend our school unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. We will ensure that key contractors are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.

### **Attendance**

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 self-isolating with COVID-19 symptoms in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they will be recorded as code X02 (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they do not attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they will be recorded as code I02 (COVID illness).

### **Remote education**

Our school has published its Remote Learning Offer on our website. Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, we will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so. We will maintain our ability to deliver high-quality remote education for this next academic year, including for pupils

who are abroad, and facing challenges to return due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad. The remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school. We will work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education. Where there is a need for remote education, there should be regular feedback and checking in with pupils.

### **School workforce**

Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else. It is important that everyone adheres to this guidance, but CEV people may wish to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take. Further information can be found in the [guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19](#). Social distancing measures have now ended in the workplace and it is no longer necessary for the government to instruct people to work from home.

### **What will we do if the thresholds below are reached?**

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

We will consider:

- **Strengthening control measures** e.g. additional cleaning of touch points between lessons
- **Reintroducing 'bubbles'** e.g. lessons, playtimes, lunchtimes, before and after school clubs, collective worship
- **Reintroducing 'face coverings'**
- **Reintroducing TEAMS for staff meetings, LGB meetings, Recruitment**
- **Suspending indoor music and sporting events**
- **Reintroducing staggered starts and finishes**
- **Reintroducing suspending visits (including residential) and visitors to school.**