

Managing the Risks Associated with COVID-19

On April 1st, the Government decided to withdraw the DfE guidance for schools and its guidance for special schools, and also to cease the availability of free Lateral Flow Tests via school, as part of its Living with COVID strategy.

This has now been replaced with generic guidance from the UKHSA on the management of infectious diseases. This guidance can be found here:

Health protection in education and childcare settings

Those who are at highest risk from COVID-19 can access antibody and antiviral treatments. The details of who is considered to be at highest risk and what treatments are available can be found here:

Treatments for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Below are the main actions being taken by school in order to minimise the risk of infection from communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

Environment or placement of someone who develops an infection

If a child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and has a high temperature, or appears to be too unwell to be in school, then they will be separated from the class group until a parent or carer can come and collect them and should not be sent home on transport. During this time staff will wear a face mask, gloves and a disposable apron.

The child should remain off school until they no longer have a temperature that needs to be controlled by medication, and they feel well enough to be in school.

Hand hygiene

Hand soap and hand sanitiser deployed to every classroom and at other key locations such as reception.

Staff support pupils to both understand the importance of, and complete, hand cleaning processes dependent upon level of need.

Pupils directly instructed to wash hands throughout the day, at key routine periods and in response to pupil specific need, such as having coughed into their hand or been to the toilet.

Pupils will be closely monitored in their use of hand sanitiser in order to ensure that it is used appropriately.

If individuals have a particular sensitivity to repeated hand cleaning, they will be supported with alternative products to ensure enhanced hygiene is maintained.

Pocket size bottles of hand sanitiser will be made available for use on site and for off site visits.

Respiratory and cough hygiene

Tissues located in all classrooms and other key locations. Bins to be emptied daily as minimum, but more frequently if there are high levels of use.

Signage in place to promote enhanced hygiene.

Pedal bins deployed to all classrooms and main shared areas.

Staff support pupils to both understand the importance of, and complete, good respiratory hygiene dependent upon level of need.

Pupils directly instructed to use tissues in response to pupil specific need, such as having coughed or sneezed. This will be supported by highlighting the importance of hand hygiene.

If pupils develop a desire to spit uncontrollably or use saliva as a sensory stimulant then a risk assessment will be put in place to determine whether any further mitigations are necessary.

Anti-Bac sprays and wipes are located in all classrooms and key locations for frequent through day use.

Personal protective equipment

Staff will use routine PPE as usual. Where appropriate, this will be supplemented by single use Fluid Resistant face masks and/or visor for feeding (e.g. tube feeding), personal, behavioural or medical care that requires sustained close contact or involves pupils with poor saliva control or who are likely to spit.

If a member of staff has symptoms of a respiratory infection but does not have a temperature and feels generally well enough to be in school, they will be requested to wear a FFP3 mask for close contact activity.

If a member of staff is feeling generally unwell, but is well enough to be in work, then they will be welcome to wear a FFP3 mask should they deem it appropriate to do so.

If a child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and have a high temperature, or appear to be too unwell to be in school, then they will be separated from the class group until a parent or carer can come and collect them and should not be sent home on transport. During this time staff will wear a face mask, gloves and a disposable apron.

Staff will be requested to familiarise themselves with the information in the document "Donning and Doffing Standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)".

PPE associated with contact with a symptomatic pupil or member of staff should be disposed of by placing it in a plastic clinical waste bag and sealed by tying the top. This should then be placed in one of the clinical waste bins located around the school.

Safe management of the environment

Anti-Bac sprays and wipes are located in all classrooms and key locations for frequent through day use. All classrooms and in-use areas cleaned daily by contract cleaners.

In the event of an outbreak - staff and contract cleaners will complete additional cleaning of frequently touched areas such as handles and hand rails. Communal doors, particularly those with

high frequency use such as toilet doors, and those with numeric door locks to be cleaned with anti-bac wipes before and after use, wherever this is appropriate and possible.

Staff are requested to keep windows and doors open where possible in order to maximise the flow of fresh air. Where this is not possible, windows and doors should be opened during periods of non-occupancy in order to flush the room with fresh air.

CO2 monitors are in use and adjustments are made to ventilation when the need is indicated, such as when the level reaches more than 1000ppm.

Internal doors are kept open, where it is safe to do so, in order to maximise the flow of air around the building.

Shared spaces should have windows and doors opened between uses by different classes in order to flush with fresh air.

Safe management of equipment

Staff will be advised to minimise the storage of resources and equipment within the classroom in order to maximise available floor space and circulation space.

Other considerations

All contractors are informed of the school's protocols upon arrival and monitored to ensure compliance.

Where possible contractors are requested to work outside of the school's normal operational hours.

Where possible windows and doors kept open to increase ventilation across the school

Staff are expected to avoid working in small unventilated spaces

Restrictions on the numbers of attendees at meetings remain in place in relation to meeting rooms, including the headteacher's office

Where the school is experiencing significant disruption to staffing levels, the following actions will be followed:

1. Normal education with redistribution of staff or additional staff called in
2. Activities, rather than fully structured lessons, delivered by minimum staffing required for safety
3. Reduction in numbers in a class to manageable level on a temporary or rotational basis, with family support
4. Emergency closure of a class, either temporarily for one day to instate arrangements for Stage 5, or for a longer period of time deemed necessary to be confident that staffing levels required for safe operation can be reinstated
5. Rotational class closures (eg two days in school, two days at home) with pupils in school staffed by those available

In the event that the school experiences a sustained period of disruption, decision making will be informed by the DfE guidance, Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings