

COVID-19 Risk Assessment – September 2021

The technical name of the virus that causes COVID-19 is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, abbreviated as **SARS-CoV-2**. Operational guidance issued on 6th July for SEND and Specialist Settings has been used to support the further development of the risk assessment in readiness for school returning in September. Legislative changes that came into force on 16th August have also been taken into account.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

Whilst the COVID-19 virus can cause serious illness, especially for vulnerable adults with underlying health conditions, evidence suggests that for the majority (particularly children and young people) they will experience a mild to moderate illness. The risk assessment has been developed based on the following principle:

- That we will act together to ensure the safety and reassurance of all staff and children.

General Health and Safety - Sanitisation of building			
Risk Area	Hazard	Mitigation	Responsible Person
Insufficient Cleaning	<p>There is increasing evidence indicates that the transmittance of COVID-19 through hard surfaces is not a major source of infection.</p> <p>There is a very small risk that the virus could be present on hard surfaces in the school building which could be a source of transmission.</p> <p>If the virus is present and staff or children come in to contact with this, then there is a very small chance that they could become infected with COVID-19.</p>	<p>Ensure that hand sanitiser is available at entry points to the school.</p> <p>Ensure soap and water/hand sanitiser is available and that all staff ensure hand cleanliness on entry into classrooms.</p> <p>Regular cleaning of all surfaces.</p> <p>Stocks of cleaning chemicals, liquid soap, paper towels, tissues, toilet roll, bin bags etc. regularly checked and additional supplies requested as necessary.</p> <p>Ensure that anti-bacterial spray or wipes are available in each classroom and encourage use throughout the day.</p>	Estates team
Staffing and spread of COVID-19 to staff, children, families, visitors and contractors.	Staff, pupils or visitors may be COVID-19 positive	<p>Contact with individuals who are unwell is minimised by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do not attend school.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated close contacts of positive cases will no longer be required to self isolate if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive from COVID 19 from 16th August and will instead be requested to conduct a PCR test. It is not required that individuals will isolate whilst awaiting results of PCR tests unless they become unwell with symptoms.</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p> <p>All stakeholders</p>

Staff and pupils need sufficient opportunity throughout the day to implement effective hand washing.

Sneeze into a tissue or sleeve, NEVER into hands. Wash hands immediately after. Used tissues to be put in a bin immediately.

Staff, children and visitors will be reminded to wash their hands before leaving home, on arrival at the premises and before eating/drinking, after using the toilet, and not to touch face with hands that are not clean.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is promoted.

Alcohol based hand cleansers/gels (containing at least 60% alcohol) can be used but only if soap and water are not available. This is not a substitute for hand washing. Such gels **MUST ONLY BE USED UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION.**

Follow Hand Washing protocol: https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

Soap and water, and regular handwashing for at least 20 seconds, is the best way of staying safe. Handwashing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available, or the situation makes using soap less feasible (for example, when outside), but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Staff and pupils (where appropriate) should be reminded to wash their hands more frequently than normal, including on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.

All

H&S and behaviour protocols	Staff may not have appropriate knowledge on virus transmission and risk.	<p>All staff to keep themselves updated and follow the latest Government and national Public Health England/ NHS guidelines via https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</p> <p>Staff to follow PHE guidance for administering first aid and follow handwashing protocol. https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/infection-prevention-control</p>	All staff
Contact with and spread of COVID-19	Staff members may come into contact with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.	<p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they MUST be sent home and advised to follow the guidance which sets out that they must self-isolate and arrange to have PCR test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p>If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms in school or if a child has been in close contact with them, they do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.</p> <p>Staff and children must not come to school if they are displaying symptoms and MUST take a PCR test if they are displaying such symptoms. School is no longer responsible for track and trace arrangements. Staff and families will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>If someone tests positive, they must self-isolate in line with government guidance.</p>	All staff
Providing medical interventions and intimate care	Staff members may come into contact with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.	<p>All staff who are providing medical interventions must wear PPE, which includes a FFP2 mask, apron and gloves. These must be changed between each pupil.</p> <p>All staff who are providing intimate care must wear PPE, which includes a FFP2 mask, apron and gloves. These must be changed between each pupil. The bed and any equipment used, must be wiped before and after each pupil.</p> <p>If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms in school or if a child has been in close contact with them, they do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.</p> <p>Staff and children must not come to school if they are displaying symptoms and MUST take a PCR test if they are displaying such symptoms. School is no longer responsible for track and trace arrangements. Staff and families will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>If someone tests positive, they must self-isolate in line with government guidance.</p>	

Ventilation	Inadequate ventilation may restrict air flow which may contribute to circulation of the virus if it is present in the building.	<p>Ventilate spaces with outdoor air where possible. Ensure adequate ventilation as per regulations. Adjust heating to allow ventilation.</p> <p>Where possible prop doors/windows open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding). Note: Fire doors must not be propped open unless they have a self-closing hold open device fitted.</p>	All staff
Quarantine facilities	Individuals may develop symptoms of COVID-19.	<p>COVID 19 Outbreak Contingency Plan to be followed. To share with staff, visitors and parents/carers.</p> <p>Children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, are told not to attend or enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.</p> <p>If anyone develops symptoms of coronavirus, they will need to go home, and take a PCR test.</p> <p>Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.</p>	All

Possible or confirmed infection			
	Someone on school site may develop symptoms	<p>Everyone is advised not to attend school if they are displaying symptoms.</p> <p>If anyone develops symptoms of coronavirus, they are sent home and advised take a PCR test.</p> <p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance.</p> <p>If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell, they do not need to go home.</p> <p>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.</p>	All
Services			

Estates and cleaning teams	<p>There could be insufficient cleaners to keep the building safe.</p> <p>Cleaning staff may be exposed to undue social contact as they go into different classes</p>	<p>Estates team to follow WAT Estates Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Assurances sought that cleaners are available; early notification where this is not the case and a judgement call to be made by SLT about the safety or otherwise of the building in the absence of the cleaning.</p>	Stewart Holt Darren Todhunter
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