



West Country Schools Trust ~ South Dartmoor Community College and Atrium

September Covid-19 School Risk Assessment

- **Review SLT 29/11/21**
- **Whole Staff 29/11/21**
- **Chair of Governors 29/11/21**

The country has now moved to Step 4 of the roadmap. This marks a new phase in the national response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

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, and every adult in a school has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

The national priority is for schools 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.

The following risk assessment reflects the expectations set out by central government and the Department for Education and includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

Control measure	Actions	RAG Rating
Ensure good hygiene for everyone	<p>Hand hygiene Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. We will continue to ensure that staff and pupils clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water in toilets or by hand sanitiser distributed around the school, including at the entrance to each classroom.</p> <p>Respiratory hygiene The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach will continue to be promoted across the school.</p> <p>Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. Staff, such as First Aiders, who are dealing with a suspected positive case, will be provided with the appropriate PPE.</p>	
Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents	<p>We will maintain an appropriate daily cleaning schedule, which will include regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.</p>	
Keep occupied spaces well ventilated	<p>When our school is in operation, we will work to ensure it is ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.</p> <p>It is recommended that where external environmental conditions permit, all classroom windows and doors are kept open to maintain natural airflow and circulation. Please note – fire doors must remain closed. An additional layer of clothing, black or grey jumper with no logo, can be worn underneath a school blazer.</p> <p>In colder months, where having all external windows open is not always practical, it is recommended that internal doors are kept open, along with atleast one external window in each classroom. At both break and lunch time, it is recommended that all windows are fully opened.</p> <p>Where classrooms have air conditioning, this can continue to be used, as the system does not recycle internal air.</p> <p>When holding assemblies, spaces will be fully ventilated before and after use. When in use, doors and windows will be kept open, in line with external environmental conditions.</p>	

Face coverings	<p>Face coverings are strongly advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas eg corridors. Masks are advised to be worn at the end of lessons, whilst moving between lessons and in assemblies. During mock exams masks are advised to be worn when lining up and entering the exam room but can be removed once seated.</p> <p>From Tuesday 30/11/21 the government has made it compulsory to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport.</p> <p>We continue to recommend that pupils arriving via public transport wear a face covering whilst travelling.</p> <p>If we have an outbreak in our school, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in classrooms (by pupils staff and visitors, unless exempt). However, in these circumstances, no pupil will be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.</p>	
Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19	<p>Pupils, staff and other adults at the school will follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).</p> <p>If anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.</p> <p>For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.</p> <p>If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.</p> <p>The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.</p>	
Asymptomatic testing	<p>Lateral flow devices are available for collection by students and staff from school and it is strongly advised that staff and students test twice weekly, Sunday and Wednesday evenings and follow up any positive LFT test with a PCR test within 24 hours.</p> <p>Testing is voluntary and no pupil will be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, engaging in testing.</p>	

Confirmatory PCR tests	<p>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.</p> <p>Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</p> <p>If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	
Tracing close contacts and isolation	<p>Schools will no longer undertake contact tracing.</p> <p>As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. We may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.</p> <p>From 16 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. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Schools 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 our school or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise our school to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.</p>	
Other considerations	<p>All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people can now attend school unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.</p> <p>We will ensure that key contractors are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.</p>	

Admitting children into school	<p>In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.</p> <p>If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, we reserve the right to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.</p> <p>Our decision will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.</p>	
Attendance	<p>School attendance is now mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.</p> <p>Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they will be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).</p> <p>For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the school attendance guidance.</p>	
Travel and quarantine	<p>All pupils travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice.</p> <p>We ask all parents travelling abroad to bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.</p>	
Remote education	<p>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.</p> <p>We will maintain our capacity to deliver high-quality remote education for the 2021-22 academic year.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Mixing and 'bubbles'	<p>From September 2021 it is no longer necessary to keep pupils in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will no longer be used in schools. This also means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.</p> <p>We are aware that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups – this decision would be taken in conjunction with Public Health England and the DfE.</p>	

	Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.	
School workforce	<p>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.</p> <p>Classroom staff are no longer required to stay at the front of the classroom in 'zoned areas'. Although, staff are able to exercise personal judgment over what they are most comfortable with.</p> <p>Staff meetings can now resume as normal, but measures such as ventilation should be considered.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you are CEV, an individual risk assessment should be used to record any concerns, considerations and outcomes.</p>	
School meals	<p>Full catering facilities will be offered on site as normal from September 2021. Hot options will be consumed in the Dining Hall using crockery and cutlery.</p> <p>Queueing procedures, snaking outside but under the tented area will continue to enable distanced queuing.</p>	
Educational visits	<p>From Tuesday 30/11/21 we will not host any external visitors until further notice, this includes speakers, visiting staff etc. Parental meetings can continue to be held however these will be conducted in the meeting rooms at the front of school. Professionals meetings should be on-line where at all possible.</p> <p>International visits that have previously been deferred or postponed can go ahead, this includes organising new international visits for the future.</p> <p>We are 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 during a visit and we will comply with international travel legislation.</p> <p>We will work with our visit providers, commercial insurance companies, and 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).</p>	

	<p>We will 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).</p>	
Wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity	<p>Clubs, activities and sporting fixtures can go ahead as planned, subject to appropriate hygiene and control measures. Subjects especially P.E and Music / Performing Arts to follow subject specific professional body guidance. Performances on and off site that involve a live audience will stop until further notice this includes all concerts and community events.</p>	
Stepping measures up and down	<p>Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission.</p> <p>If we have several confirmed cases within 14 days, we may have an outbreak.</p> <p>In that circumstance, we will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to our local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as stepping up measures. We 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	