

Fiskerton Church of England Primary School

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Outbreak Management Contingency Plan (updated 1st September 2021)

The aim of this plan

If our school or local area sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions, which could include the partial closure of schools and childcare settings in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants.

This contingency plan, also known as an 'outbreak management plan', outlines how the school will operate if further restrictions are implemented. The school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

This is a live document that will be reviewed by the headteacher, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, as and when the situation develops.

This plan has been created in line with the latest government advice regarding contingency planning as set out in the DfE's '[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#)' and '[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)' documents. The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Any restrictions on education would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision on a case-by-case basis.

It has been confirmed that the 'outbreak management plan' that schools should have in place, according to DfE guidance, is the same as the contingency plan. We have used the phrase 'contingency plan' throughout.

Restrictions to attendance

The government has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school unless required to self-isolate.

The contingency framework is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

Restrictive attendance measures, of the kind set out in the contingency framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE.

Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following government advice, they will be

kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of pupils to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers to attend full time.

As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, LAs, Directors of Public Health, and HPTs may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.

Where LAs judge that wider containment action is needed and wish to limit attendance within an area, they will work with their Regional Partnership Team to escalate a proposal to the central Local Action Committee command structure.

Unless advised otherwise, the school will allow all pupils to attend. If the contingency framework is implemented, the school will only allow the following pupils to attend on-site provision:

- **Vulnerable pupils**
- **Children of critical workers**

The above groups will be defined by up-to date DFE guidance and school leadership, contact the school for more information.

High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils not in attendance, in line with our Remote Learning Policy.

The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the government that it is appropriate to do so.

Infection prevention and control

The school's COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been updated for academic year 2021-22 and will continue to be adhered to until requirements change.

Any member of the school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Critical workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

All schools are currently being provided with rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) testing kits, which are used by school staff twice weekly (DFE review Autumn 2021) and if removed following DFE guidance, may be reintroduced with an increase in cases or the prevalence of a new variant.

Any staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual at school will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves. Fully vaccinated adults, and pupils under the age of 18, who have been identified as close contacts of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service, will not need to self-isolate unless advised by a healthcare professional. Individuals also do not need to self-isolate if:

- They live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, unless they develop symptoms themselves.
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial.
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Adults who receive their second dose of the vaccine close to 16 August will need to continue to follow the same rules as unvaccinated adults until two weeks after their second dose.

Unvaccinated adults and adults who have only had one dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the rules on self-isolation if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

Staff members who live have been in extremely close contact with a positive case (eg a spouse or partner) will be given time to get a PCR test and required to wear a face covering in communal areas, they do not need to self isolate and can attend work during this time. This however may be reviewed by school leadership and Public Health Lincolnshire especially if there are an increased number of cases linked to the school.

It is important to think about taking extra actions if the number of positive coronavirus cases in the school substantially increases, as this could indicate that coronavirus transmission is happening in school.

The following thresholds will be used as an indication of when to seek public health advice, whichever is reached first:

- Five pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for coronavirus within a 10-day period
- 10 percent of children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for coronavirus within a 10-day period

A director of public health may provide the school with advice that reflects the local situation. In areas where rates of positive cases are high, this could mean that the thresholds for extra actions are higher than the threshold set out above.

The school will seek additional public health advice if there is concern regarding transmission in the school, either by phoning the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 or in line with other local arrangements via Public Health Lincolnshire . The school will also refer to the government's [contingency framework](#) for further information.

The individual's close contacts at school - where they do not fulfil the criteria outlined in this section of the contingency plan - will be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace, and advised to take a PCR test. If more individuals test positive, the school will follow advice from the local Health Protection Team (HPT), which may include requiring more people to self-isolate. Staff who do not need to isolate and young people under the age of 18 years and six months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal, unless specifically directed.

As the result of an outbreak during step 4 of the coronavirus recovery roadmap, a temporary requirement could be implemented:

- For staff to resume wearing face coverings in areas other than crowded spaces where they are likely to come into contact with others they would not normally meet. This may include face coverings being reintroduced in communal areas and classrooms for members of staff.
- The school may also be required to reintroduce the use of class bubbles in order to resume social distancing and limit the transmission of coronavirus. The school will adhere to any conditions set out by the local HPT.
- Staggered drop-off and Collection, staggered lunch and break times, pupils eating in the classroom and removing large group activities eg assemblies will be put in place should class bubbles be reintroduced.
- Events and school trips will be restricted or cancelled.

Teaching and learning

- If restrictions to on-site education are required, the school will offer immediate access to high-quality remote education for all pupils who are required to remain at home. All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Remote Learning During a National or Local Lockdown Policy (available on our school website).
- Where advised during a local outbreak, further restrictions may be enforced with regards to certain musical and drama activities, e.g. singing, for pupils attending on-site provision, to help reduce the risk of transmitting coronavirus via aerosols. Restrictions may also be reintroduced to contact and indoor sports. The school will follow the advice provided by the local HPT

Returning to school

- The headteacher will work with the HPT to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more pupils and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed.
- Where advised to do so by a Director of Public Health and/or the local HPT, the school may encourage staff to undertake LFD tests at home prior to their return to school and/or for a period of time following their return. The school will continue to recognise that testing is voluntary.
- The headteacher will inform staff, pupils and parents, prior to the return to school, whether any further restrictions, such as the use of bubbles and face coverings, have been resumed.
- After a period of self-isolation, or the relaxation of restrictions, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

Exams and assessments

The school will remain open for any exams and assessments planned in line with current government guidance.

Tests for entry to selective schools can continue to operate for in-year admissions eg 11+

Safeguarding

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school - we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

We will continue to ensure that:

- The best interests of pupils always come first.
- If anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately.
- A DSL (Sandra Rycroft) or deputy DSL (Kerry Henry) is always available.
- Pupils who remain at home are protected when they are online.

A trained DSL or deputy will remain on-site where possible. Where this is not possible, e.g. they are required to self-isolate, the school will ensure that the DSL or deputy, or a DSL or deputy from another school, are available to contact at all times.

Wraparound care

The school's wraparound care (Foxes Club) will be provided to all pupils; however, where restrictions are required, wraparound care will only be provided on-site to pupils who are eligible to attend school full time.

Communication

The school will communicate its plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents via Parentmail, including in relation to:

- Opening arrangements.
- Access for specific groups where applicable.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of our risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops.

Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed continually, by the headteacher, in line with guidance from the government, the DFE and Public Health England .

As guidelines are subject to change at short notice, elements of this plan maybe changed at the point of contact from the DFE or Public Health Lincolnshire and their advice and guidance will supersede information outlined above. Any changes to the plan will be communicated to relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.