

COVID-19 Contingency Plan

(v2. December 2021)

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1 Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(updated 3rd December 2021\)](#) of COVID-19 and the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(updated 9th December 2021\)](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

This plan has been updated to reflect the 'Plan B' announcements made by the Prime Minister on 8th December 2021.

Thrive is committed to minimising the disruption to education during the pandemic in a way that best manages COVID-19 risks. Attendance restrictions will only be considered as a last resort. We will only implement measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by those responsible for managing localised outbreaks (the local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team) or in rare circumstances the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely¹ within a 10-day period
 - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2 Collaboration and Seeking public health advice

As a school approaches one of the above thresholds it will liaise with Trust staff and make contact with the LA Public Health Advisor and Director of Public Health and the local Health Protection Team and follow their advice in managing a localised outbreak.

The person responsible for making these contacts and following all advice given at this school is Sharon Chadburn Head of School.

We will always seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

In the event of any contingency threshold being reached Thrive schools will inform the Local Authority and the Regional School Commissioner.

3 Measures to be taken

In the event of a local outbreak being declared, and in any run up to such an event, the school will consider the following measures after receiving public health advice.

¹ The definition of close mixing is given on p.19 of the DfE's [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(2021\)](#) document.

3.1 Testing

We will take advice on the possibility of increased testing (LFD), more frequent testing or the (re)introduction of asymptomatic test sites for pupils in secondary schools. Before taking any of these measures the school will consult with the Director of Public Health.

3.2 Hygiene

The school will consider any further action it can take to increase hygiene measures, especially around the cleaning of the school including frequently used areas and touch spots.

3.3 Ventilation

The school will ensure that all rooms used by more than one person have adequate ventilation.

3.4 Face coverings

All staff, visitors and pupils in secondary schools, are currently required to wear face coverings in communal areas and classrooms, for staff, and for secondary aged pupils. In the event of a threshold being reached we will take advice on the use of face coverings in lessons in secondary schools. Pupils must wear face coverings on dedicated transport.

3.5 Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#). We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

3.6 Other measures

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups

4 Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be actioned as recommended by local or national public health advice as a short term measure and as a last resort.

4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, and if advised to do so the school we will remain open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

Pupils can attend school if they are a close contact of a positive case, unless they are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in which case, regardless of vaccination status, they should self-isolate and seek a PCR test.

4.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive high quality, remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our remote learning policy.

4.3 School meals

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

4.4 Wraparound care

We may limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

4.5 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will have a trained DSL or deputy DSL available at all times.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding on site.

4.6 Vulnerable pupils

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision and to support their welfare

5. Omicron Variant of COVID-19

The school will be contacted directly by the local Health Protection team about any member of the school community testing positive for the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and will follow their advice.

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. They will be contacted directly by the local Health Protection Team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

6. Communications

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via text, email, letters and notification on school websites once a decision has been made.

Appendix 1: Public health contact details

In hours:

Local provision for general queries, to seek public health advice on a possible outbreak and providing updates on existing situations (please note you do not need to tell us about every case):

School nursing team covid duty on 01482 336634 or 344301

[local service provided by school nurses in the 0-19 team at City Health Care Partnership on behalf of the Local Authority public health team, escalation to Public Health Consultant / Director of Public Health in the LA]

Covid19.dph@hullcc.gov.uk

[emails received by LA public health team and actioned by the school nursing team or escalated to Public Health Consultant]

Alternatively, national provision:

DfE helpline 0800 046 8687, option 1 Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

[call centre staffed by NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of PHE and DfE. Script-based service, not trained public health professionals, but can escalate to regional PHE Health Protection Team]

Out of hours:

We are no longer able to provide a full out of hours offer locally and may not pick up emails consistently. Options are:

DfE helpline 0800 0468687 Sat & Sun 10am-6pm

For public health emergencies, the PHE regional Health Protection Team out of hours 0151 9091219

In an emergency situation which cannot wait until the next working day and needs a local response, email covid19.dph@hullcc.gov.uk and the out of office message will give you the phone numbers for the Public Health Consultant or Director who is covering that evening or weekend.