



Parmiter's School

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by the Hertfordshire local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) health protection team or the national government.

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

- 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 students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
 - 10% of students 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. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from Hertfordshire County Council.

3. Testing

Students and staff are asked to participate in twice weekly lateral flow testing (LFT), with tests taken every Wednesday and Sunday.

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

Prior to school return in September and January every student was offered the opportunity for asymptomatic on site testing.

All contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases will be advised to adhere to the latest government guidance on LFT and PCR testing.

4. Face coverings

If recommended, pupils, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas

And/or:

- Will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity

National guidance has been issued that from 2 January 2022, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms and indoor communal areas. This guidance is due to be reviewed on 26 January 2022.

5. Shielding

Following the [government announcement](#) on 15 September 2021 about the end of national shielding in England, it is unlikely that vulnerable individuals will be advised to shield in the event of future outbreaks.

We will continue to monitor government guidance in relation to how best to protect clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.

6. Protective measures

In the event of either of the thresholds outlined in Section 1 being met, the school will collaborate with Hertfordshire County Council to manage the response. Strategies may include one or more of the following.

- Requiring face coverings to be worn in some or all areas of the school.
- Reviewing, adapting and enhancing current cleaning regimes
- More regular lateral flow testing
- Restricting large group gatherings i.e. assemblies delivered remotely

- Increased separation of Year groups
- Requesting that siblings of positive cases work from home during the isolation period

If infection rates continue to rise, further measures may be required such as the following:

- Cancellation or postponement of large events
- Reviewing the viability of trips and visits
- Reviewing our extra-curricular programme
- Implementing attendance restrictions for some or all year groups.

7. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be considered as a last resort. If attendance restrictions are necessary, we will implement the measures in this section.

7.1 Education for students at home

In the event of attendance restrictions, students in the affected year group(s) will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that students would receive in school, this will be delivered through the Google Classroom. Details of our remote learning provision can be found on our [school website](#).

7.2 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will remain open for:

- Vulnerable students
- Children of critical workers

The definition of vulnerable children includes those who:

- Are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including:
 - Looked-after children
 - Children with a child in need plan
 - Children with a child protection plan
 - Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- On the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred
- Have previously been open to children's social care services
- At risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- Facing difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices, internet connection or quiet space to study)
- In need of support for their mental health

7.3 Safeguarding in the event of attendance restrictions

We will review our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' in our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#).

If our DSL (or deputy) cannot be on site, they can be contacted remotely by email or telephone, the number of which is available on SIMS.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, the Headteacher will take responsibility for coordinating safeguarding.

The Headteacher will be responsible for liaising with our off-site DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the Headteacher) can:

- Identify the most vulnerable children in school
- Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary
- Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments.