



Coronavirus (Covid-19): HCAT Risk Assessment September 2021

HCAT takes its responsibilities to students, staff, visitors and the local community, extremely seriously. The wellbeing, health and safety of our community has been central to our planning. This Risk Assessment explains the actions our school leaders should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our schools. The Risk Assessment includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

Overview

In accordance with the [DFE Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#), the Risk Assessment outlines the measures to be in place in our Schools from September 2021, unless an outbreak should occur – (see HCAT Outbreak Management Plan)

As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's 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 has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

Our priority is 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 Trust is aware of the legal responsibilities of providers in taking steps to reopen. The Trust has duties of care towards staff, students and visitors, including under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Equality Act 2010. The Trust will continue to comply with those obligations.

Control Measures that are in place across HCAT Schools –

| | Active Arrangements | Plans in school |
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| 1 | Mixing and Bubbles | <p>We will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and there is no longer the need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.</p> <p>The HCAT Outbreak Management Plan covers the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' will not be taken lightly and we would take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.</p> |
| 2 | Tracing close contacts and isolation | <p>From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.</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.</p> <p>Any adult (18 years and 4 months) in the setting who hasn't been fully vaccinated may need to isolate so measures will be in place in that eventuality to allow them to work from home.</p> <p>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 asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.</p> |
| 3 | Face coverings | <p>From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However should a member of staff choose to wear a face covering, then that is their personal choice to do so.</p> <p>The HCAT Outbreak Management Plan covers the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce face coverings for a temporary period in communal areas.</p> |

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| 4 | Stepping measures up and down | The HCAT Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we would operate if there was an outbreak in a school or in the locality. |
| Control Measures | | |
| Ensure good hygiene for everyone | | |
| 1 | Hand Hygiene | We will continue to promote frequent and thorough hand cleaning, using soap and water or hand sanitizer. |
| 2 | Respiratory Hygiene | We will continue to promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. |
| 3 | Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) | The use of PPE is no longer required beyond what they would use for their normal work (nappy changing etc) |
| Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents | | |
| 4 | Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents | An appropriate cleaning schedule will be in place to ensure regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a focus on frequently touched surfaces. |
| Keep occupied spaces well ventilated | | |
| 5 | Keep occupied spaces well ventilated | When the school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Opening external windows will be considered (weather and temperature dependent) alongside the opening of internal doors to assist with the throughput of air. |
| Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 | | |
| 6 | When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test | Pupils, staff and other adults should 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). Anyone in school who develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, will be sent home and they should follow public health advice. 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. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left. |
| 7 | Asymptomatic testing | There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period. Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end |

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| | | of September, when this will also be reviewed. |
| 8 | Confirmatory PCR tests | <p>Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance.</p> <p>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> |
| Other considerations | | |
| 9 | Clinical Extremely Vulnerable Children | All CEV children and young people should attend their education setting 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 GP or clinician not to attend. |
| 10 | Admitting Children into school who show symptoms | <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, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.</p> |
| 11 | Attendance | <p>School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.</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 should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus).</p> <p>Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness)</p> |
| 12 | Travel and quarantine | Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. |
| 13 | Remote Education | <p>If a child is isolating because they have tested positive but are fit and well, then Schools should continue to deliver remote education.</p> <p>The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.</p> |

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| 14 | Education Recovery | The school has a plan in place in regards to ensure children catch up on their missed education during the pandemic. |
| 15 | Pupil Well-being and support | We are aware that some children will be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to their own experiences of COVID, such as anxiety, stress, low mood, bereavement and we have robust measures in place to allow them access to the support they need |
| 16 | School Workforce | Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus. The HCAT Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we would manage those staff members if an outbreak occurred. |
| 17 | School Meals | School will continue to provide a free school meals for those pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and are learning at home during term time. |
| 18 | Education Visits | <p>The School purchases RPA Insurance in the eventuality an educational visit is cancelled that is COVID Related.</p> <p>Full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits will be in place and any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, will be included as part of any risk assessments.</p> <p>The HCAT Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we would manage Educational Visits should an outbreak occur.</p> |