



## **Managing Cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Schools**

### **Introduction**

Our plans for September have been designed to both deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils, while also effectively reducing risks in our school and creating an inherently safer environment.

The control systems have been significantly reduced from the previous academic year, in line with governmental guidance on the handling of COVID-19. As such, the measures in place from September will be as follows:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Point 1 includes hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice in school and students will be reminded to clean their hands regularly throughout the school day. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach should continue to be adopted by all students.

Point 3 outlines the need for good ventilation, particularly when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site. While improving ventilation is a key aspect of minimising risk, this should be balanced with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature for learning.

Point 4 includes the need to follow the published flowchart when students or staff develop symptoms or have a positive test. Students and staff should not attend the site if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 and should book a PCR test. If a student develops symptoms while in school, the Office will contact home and request the collection of the student. The student will remain in isolation until this can happen.

Point 4 also includes the use of asymptomatic testing. The school resumed asymptomatic testing in September for those opting into the programme and continues to promote the benefits of testing amongst the school community. 2 LFD tests were offered to all students at the school's Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) in the first 2 weeks of the Autumn term and students will be offered 1 test at the school's ATS in January before again reverting to a home testing system. If a positive result is received on a LFD test, a confirmatory PCR test must be taken. All individuals testing positive on a LFD test must isolate with immediate effect. All contact tracing for positive tests will be carried out by NHS Track and Trace not the school.



## **Identifying Symptoms and Actions to be Taken**

The first stage is to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

All members of our school community must take full responsibility for this and act with honesty and openness to ensure everyone's safety.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' (link below) which sets out that they must take a PCR test and self-isolate for at least 10 days or until a negative test result is received. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should only self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first developed symptoms if they are over 18 years of age and unvaccinated. NHS Track & Trace will then assist with identifying close contacts who will also be required to isolate.

In addition, students and staff displaying symptoms must arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) which can be booked easily using the link at the bottom of this document.

If a student tests positive while asymptomatic using a Lateral Flow Device, they must book a PCR test and isolate immediately for 10 days or until a negative result is received, following the guidance above for those with new symptoms.

If a student is awaiting collection having become unwell with any of the symptoms above, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child. Otherwise, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

## **Engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process and Managing Confirmed Cases**

As stated above, staff and students must book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.

In the case of a positive or negative test, students and staff must immediately inform the School. In the case of a positive test, the NHS Track and Trace team will work with the positive case to identify close contacts who will subsequently be informed of the need to isolate.

All online forms for reporting results can be found on the School Intranet page.



## **Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice**

If the School were to have several confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) was suspected, it may be considered to have an outbreak, and the School will then work closely with the local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required. Please see the Contingency Plans for Outbreaks for further details.

## **Remote Learning**

If a student is required to isolate due to a household member testing positive or as a result of being identified as a close contact by NHS Track & Trace, staff will deliver those lessons via Microsoft Teams and all students will be expected to log-in to the app and join their lessons as per their timetable. Staff will be delivering these lessons from school as part of the normal school day. If a student is unwell, they are not expected to access lessons via Teams and should use the time to recover. Heads of Year and teaching staff will work with students on their return to ensure that missed learning is caught up.

If a staff member is unwell and isolating, the School's normal cover procedures will be followed. If a staff member is isolating as a result of a member of their household testing positive or exhibiting symptoms, it is expected that lessons will be delivered remotely via Microsoft Teams. A cover teacher will be used to log in to Microsoft Teams to access the lesson for the students in school.

### **Stay at Home: Guidance for Households with Possible or Confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Infection** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Getting Tested** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

**NHS COVID-19 Testing and Tracing Website** - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>