



Fishwick Primary School

COVID-19 operational guidance – September 2021

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. Step 4 marked 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 2 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.

Key:

Standard operation
Additional measures that may be recommended by the Director of Public Health, Lancashire in the event of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or • 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
In case of limiting attendance

Communications	Email all staff and families and add information on the website to share the updated operational guidance
Mixing and ‘bubbles’	<p>It is no longer recommended to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). This means that bubbles will not need to be used in schools from the autumn term.</p> <p>As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and there is no need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.</p> <p>Keep records of groups who may have mixed closely in order to identify when thresholds are met. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a class • a friendship group who often play together • staff and children taking part in the same activity session together • a friendship group mixing at break times • a sport team • a group in an after-school activity
Tracing close contacts and isolation	Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of

	<p>contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.</p> <p>Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are fully vaccinated • they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months • 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 <p>Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.</p> <p>Any staff member not double vaccinated will be required to self-isolate if they have had close contact with a positive case.</p> <p>Staff who do not need to isolate, and children who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.</p> <p>If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have a positive test result but do not have symptoms, stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results.</p> <p>All settings should seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19. They can do this by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1), or in line with other local arrangements. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Settings may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.</p> <p>For all cases relating to staff, please also see the guidance for workplaces: NHS Test and Trace in the workplace Employers should call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 as soon as they are made aware that any of their workers have tested positive.</p>
<p>Face coverings</p>	<p>Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.</p> <p>Staff may continue to wear face coverings in communal areas if they wish.</p>
<p>Control measures</p>	<p>1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone</p> <p>Hand hygiene - Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.</p>

Respiratory hygiene - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) - Staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents

We have put in place an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment a minimum of twice a day with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

When school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

We balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

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).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

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. Further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

Asymptomatic testing

Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

		<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> <p>Admitting children into school</p> <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 school, the decision to refuse the pupil may be made if, in the reasonable judgement of the Headteacher, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. The decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.</p>			
	Attendance	<p>School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a 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). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).</p> <p>For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the school attendance guidance.</p>			
	Remote education	<p>Where appropriate, we will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so. The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.</p> <p>We work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education.</p>			
	School meals	<p>We will provide free school meal (packed lunch) to any pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are learning at home during term time.</p>			
Possible Measures in case of an outbreak					
	Additional Measures	Actions	Concerns	Mitigations	
	Communications	Inform LCC, staff and families	Update website and email staff, families and local authority.	Not all members of the community may receive communications	Office staff to make phone calls to inform those people with limited access to online information Send paper versions Translate where needed

	Mixing and 'bubbles'	Reinstate 'bubbles' in school	Revert to previous arrangements for Summer term 2021	Reduced access to specialist teachers	Consider allowing teachers to cross bubbles, but with additional PPE and hygiene
	Tracing close contacts and isolation	If cases amongst staff mean a setting meets the threshold, described above, employers will need to provide the 8-digit NHS Test and Trace Account ID (sometimes referred to as a CTAS number) of the person who tested positive, alongside the names of co-workers identified as close contacts.	This will ensure that all workplace contacts are registered with NHS Test and Trace and can receive the necessary public health advice, including the support available to help people to self-isolate.	Cover for classes	Internally cover where possible Cover using supply staff
	Testing	Increased use of testing by staff. This could include advice on more frequent testing.	These measures may be advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for an individual setting only, by DsPH as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management, or • for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and directors of public health decide it is appropriate 	Insufficient testing materials	Ensure stock of LFTs
	Face coverings	Face coverings should temporarily be worn. This may include face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms, for staff.	These measures may temporarily be advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for an individual setting only, by DsPH as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management, or • for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package, or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and DsPH decide it is 	Problems with freely communicating	Use of visors in classrooms Any guidance should allow for reasonable exemptions for their use. In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission.

			appropriate		
	Other measures	<p>If recommended, we will limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential educational visits Open days Transition or taster days Parents coming into school Live performances 	Ensure timely communication	Reduces access to full entitlement	Delay events rather than cancel Provide reasonable safer alternatives
	Shielding	We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).	Identify those adults and children who are or live with immunocompromised or immunosuppressed individuals	Staff and/or learners are unable to be in school	We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.
	Attendance restrictions	<p>Attendance restrictions will only be implemented if recommended as a last resort.</p> <p>Education and support for pupils at home All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education. Please see our remote learning policy on the website.</p> <p>Meals for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals While pupils are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines,</p>	<p>Eligibility to remain in school In the first instance, we will stay open for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable pupils Children of critical workers EYFS & KS1 pupils <p>If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable pupils Children of critical workers who do not have an adult able to work or be at home 	Reduces access to full entitlement significantly	Systems already in place for rapid implementation

		<p>parents/carers will be asked to arrange collection of a freshly made packed lunch on a daily basis, unless other national provision is in place.</p>			
	<p>Safeguarding</p>	<p>We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.</p>	<p>We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. If this is not possible, they will be available by telephone or email.</p>	<p>Limited regular contact with learners</p>	<p>Revert to contact protocols from previous enforced closures Prioritise individual pupils</p>