

FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since 21st February 2022, thresholds for declaring an outbreak have changed along with the removal for a legal need to self-isolate if you are a close contact. Public Health advice remains that those who test positive or have Covid-19 symptoms should self-isolate for up to 10 days or on completion of two successive negative tests from day 5 and 6 onwards: COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Updated contingency framework and other linked guidance can be found here: Managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Principles

- Our overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.
- The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission will be weighed against any educational drawbacks.
- We will endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.
- We will keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.
- Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a last resort.

Stage 1 – Ongoing risk assessment & control measures

Our COVID risk assessment can be found on our website and describes the ongoing control measures we have in place to reduce risks related to COVID, including:

- individual risk factors meaning staff / pupils more vulnerable to COVID-19
- school occupants coming into contact with those with COVID-19 symptoms
- general transmission of COVID-19
- ineffective hygiene protocols
- ineffective cleaning
- minimising contact and maintenance of social distancing
- access to & egress from site
- contact points & equipment use
- proximity of pupils & staff
- shared areas use / lunchtimes
- transport / travel off site
- contractors
- provision of first aid
- provision of personal care
- emergency procedures (fire alarm activations etc)
- deliveries & waste collection
- premises safety
- lack of awareness of control measures
- staffing levels

This risk assessment has been reviewed in the light of the latest move to Step 4 in the government roadmap to lifting restrictions related to the pandemic.

We will continue to review based on ongoing advice from the Local Health Protection (LPH) team and Department for Education (DfE).

Stage 2 – Identification of outbreak

We have considered the need to take extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases – this could indicate that an outbreak is happening.

An outbreak is likely to be identified whenever one of these thresholds is reached first:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection within an identified group who have mixed closely
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19
- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students within the affected group

Identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different for each setting. Below are some examples.

For Nursery and Reception, this could include:

- a childminder minding children, including their own
- childminders working together on the same site
- a nursery class
- a friendship group who often play together
- staff and children taking part in the same activity session together

For Years 1 to 6, this could include:

- a class
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity

If we believe we have met either of these thresholds, we will also seek advice from the Local Public Health Team (LPH) and/or DfE about extra action that should be taken to manage the outbreak.

We will then review and potentially reinforce our control measures in discussion with the LPH/DfE, including:

- testing
- face coverings
- shielding
- limiting other activities e.g. residential educational visits; open days; transition or taster days; parental attendance in settings; live performances in settings

In addition, we will also seek advice from the Local Public Health Team and/or DfE if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. We will then be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

Stage 3 – Confirmed outbreak

In exceptional circumstances, we may be advised by LPH/DfE to implement attendance restrictions as an exceptional short-term measure and a last resort:

- across an area, on government advice to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

- for individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission

In all circumstances, the priority will continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

Where measures include attendance restrictions, we may be advised by the DfE on any other groups that should be prioritised.

Where we are advised, temporarily, to limit attendance, we will ensure that high-quality remote education is provided to all pupils not attending.

In these exceptional circumstances, we will follow the latest guidance from government including:

- remote education
- education workforce
- safeguarding issues
- vulnerable children and young people
- transport
- school & FE meals
- educational visits