

St Michael's Cof E Primary School

Covid-19 Contingency Plan (Outbreak Management Plan)

January 2022



The 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. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks. Any measures will apply to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. All measures will be kept under regular review and they will be lifted as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort.

The contingency plan outlines what we would do if children or staff test positive for Covid-19 and how we operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission.

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



NO

- **Attendance at school is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age.** All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children should attend school unless they are one of a very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.
- From 16th August 2021, children under 18 years and 6 months (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid UNLESS they have symptoms (see below)
- **If your child is identified as a close contact, and has no cold-like symptoms, they can continue to come to school. They will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school, taking a daily lateral flow test, while you wait for the result.**

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home. Book a PCR test, NOT a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child has been a close contact of someone who currently has COVID (e.g. parent, sibling or classmate) AND they have cold-like symptoms, keep them at home until they have had a PCR test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book a PCR test.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 and 6 months or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**



Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.

- There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days.
- Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable.
- Hospitalisation/ Deaths due to Covid nationally are low.
- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Staff will continue to test twice weekly using Lateral flow tests.



Rapidly Rising Community Transmission

- Low current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but...
- Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools.
- Public Health / Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ national infection wave.
- Ventilation of classrooms increased & handwashing supervised.
- Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced.
- Staff-room capacity is reviewed
- Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with SLT and review arrangements



A single child tests Positive

- A single child tests positive for Covid in a class.
 - There are fewer than 5 cases in the year group.
 - No other year groups are affected.
 - The child self-isolates for 7 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it.
 - The parents of the child are contacted directly
 - by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts.
 - Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book a PCR Test.
- Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid Symptoms.**



5 children or staff within a year group test positive within a 10 day period

OR

10% of children or staff in a single class/club test positive within a 10 day period.

- There have been 5 cases of Covid within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within a group of children.
 - **As above for each positive case.**
 - The school will discuss the outbreak with LA/Public Health/CCE and agree strengthening protective measures for 10 school days, including:
 - Re-introducing staff face coverings for corridors & communal areas.
 - Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, educational visits, open days and performances.
 - Reverting to class-based assemblies/worship.
 - Reducing the number of classes staff work across.
 - Increasing staff lateral flow testing.
 - Consider whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- take Lateral Flow Tests daily until the PCR test is returned.
Staff and children in affected class might be recommended to book a PCR test ...]



Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.

- Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school.

- Liaison between the school/CCE and Public Health to agree further measures, for a further 10 school days, including possibly:
 - Re-introducing class bubbles
 - Children and staff in all classes with 3 or more cases take daily lateral flow tests
 - Reverting to class-based school lunches.
 - Staggered break/lunch timings
 - Limiting all non-essential visitors to school
 - Postponing all non-essential events
 - Virtual staff meetings
 - Suspending extra-curricular clubs
 - Cap on wrap-around numbers
 - Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government
 - Re-introducing high quality remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days or for children authorised not to attend school.
 - On-site provision should in all cases will be retained for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.
 - SLT/CCE to determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely

The school will inform parents of any changes to Covid measures should these be needed.

With thanks to BlackHorse Primary School