

COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust



1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

This Outbreak Management Plan outlines how Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust schools would operate if any of the additional measures due to a Variant of Concern were recommended for our setting or area. This plan includes how Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust schools will ensure every child receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

Oak Trees is a multi-academy trust comprising of six primary schools in Wirral. The schools currently operated by the Trust are:

- Church Drive Primary School
- Brackenwood Junior School
- Great Meols Primary School
- Stanton Road Primary School
- Egremont Primary Schools
- Poulton Lancelyn Primary School

The Headteacher of the school is responsible for all aspects of delivering this Outbreak Management Plan with the Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher responsible in their absence.

2. Outbreaks

An outbreak is defined as

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period;
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Close mixing examples could include:

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

Key Phone Numbers:

DFE: 0800 046 8681 Option 1

Workers Test Positive: Self Isolation Hub 020 3743 6715

3. Measures that will remain from September 2021

- A one-way walking system around the school site will remain at arrival and collection.
- Staff may continue to wear facemasks around school **if they feel more comfortable**. This will be the same for parents and carers and visitors who may wish to wear a facemask on site.
- Enhanced cleaning measures will remain during the day
- Twice weekly testing will be encouraged for all staff to complete (policy to be reviewed end Sep 2021)
- Staff will maximise ventilation in rooms
- Emphasis on maintaining good hygiene will continue
- Continue to create Remote Learning links for any child who has been informed to self-isolate
- Continue to provide a Free School Meal for those eligible if isolating.
- Each classroom will have its own basic first aid and hygiene box
- Perspex screens in close office areas will remain
- Staff will be discouraged from hot seating
- Regular wiping down of shared equipment such as communal phones
- Separate bins in classrooms: one for clinical waste (tissues etc), the other for general litter (this could be a Step One measure)

4. Shielding

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or Variant of Concern that poses a significant risk to individuals on the Shielded Patient List (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding. Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are taken into account.

- Risk Assessments will be updated to include shielding and Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust schools will support individuals with remote working if required.

Please note: Shielding can only be reintroduced by National Government.

All Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust schools will continue to support staff and pupils through individual Risk Assessments and support who are:

- Clinically Vulnerable (CV)
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- Pregnant/Expectant mothers

5. Waste Management

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust schools continue to manage effective waste management on school sites. All waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues), should be:

- Put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. That plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
- Stored safely and kept away from children. Waste should not be put in communal waste areas for at least 72 hours. It can then be disposed of normally.

6. Steps to mitigate transmission

If any of the situations arise as outlined in the introduction to this document, we will follow Government/LA guidance and the following steps will be taken depending on the situation:

Step 1

- All staff and adults attending the school site will be asked to wear face-masks in communal spaces
- Covid-19 signage will be reinstated around the school site
- Two-metre zones will be re-established in teaching areas
- Residential visits will be postponed until transmission rates are reduced
- Guidance on hands, face and space will be re-emphasised
- Clinical waste bins will be used in all classrooms
- Parents will be advised to ring the school office rather than entering school and visits from parents may be strictly limited
- Open days will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of a Variant of Concern.

Step 2

- Assemblies and other whole school activities will be postponed or done virtually or outside weather dependent
- Shared drinking fountains will be closed off
- Trips and visitors will be postponed/limited
- Clubs and enrichment activities will be postponed
- Restrictions on the amount of people allowed to enter the staff room will be re-introduced

- Playground equipment, where multiple individuals will touch it eg climbing frames/trim trails, will be closed off temporarily
- EW visitor sheets and checklists will be re-introduced
- Singing and musical wind/brass playing will cease temporarily
- Essential meetings (i.e. staff meetings, leadership meetings, will move to online)
- Reading books and shared equipment will be quarantined for 72 hours

Step 3

- Bubbles will be reinstated in school
- Desks will be front facing and teaching will engage with pupil in a side-on position
- Bubble specific areas will be reinstated around school (e.g. playground, lunchtime)
- Lunch times will be staggered
- Drop-off and collection times will be staggered
- Pregnant staff members, who are 28 weeks or more pregnant may be advised to work from home or to work in school but without direct contact with pupils
- Staff working across bubbles will be limited wherever possible

Note: These steps will be flexibly introduced dependent on Government and local advice, school-based risk assessments and Trust policy.

7. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended **as a last resort**. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section if they remain in line with Government policy:

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers as identified via Government Critical lists
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils
- Year 6 pupils

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same rigour and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning Policy.

The school will continue to provide lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. This will be coordinated by the school office and our catering providers.

Regular welfare calls will be made to all children learning remotely. Schools will maintain engagement registers to monitor access to learning during periods of remote learning

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, School Leaders will:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns
- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Virtual School Head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate
- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home
- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so

8 Wraparound care

Our providers may limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

9 Safeguarding

We will review our Child Protection Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective. This review will be in line with Wirral Local Authority policy updates and guidance.

We will have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

10 Positive cases

Only those who test positive should isolate after taking a confirmatory PCR test. All pupils and those staff double vaccinated do not need to isolate if they are a close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19 as long as they take a confirmatory PCR test to confirm that they are not positive.

Clarification from the DfE confirms that where a staff member has tested positive for Covid-19, education and childcare settings **do not need to contact the NHS Self Isolation Hub** to provide details of close contacts. Any close contacts will be identified and notified by NHS Test and Trace in the event that a staff member tests positive for Covid-19.

11 Plan review

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that this plan covers all aspects of health and safety related to the Covid-19 outbreak, it will be fluidly reviewed and adapted as Government guidance is updated and amended. An initial plan review will take place in September 2021 when pupils and staff return to school, and subsequent reviews and adaptations will take place as required during the academic year.

Any amendments to the plan will be shared and agreed with Governors and the Trust Central Team.