

Giles Junior School - Outbreak Management and Supplementary Risk assessment

Introduction

DfE guidance states that schools should have an outbreak management (contingency) plan outlining how to operate if there were an outbreak in your school or local area. See [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any further control measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

This document can be used to guide you in deciding which measures you could re-introduce should you have an outbreak in your setting in addition to your on-going controls already in place as part of your existing COVID risk assessment.

Your outbreak management plan should be specific to your school and outline the measures you would implement based on the principles set out in the [Contingency framework](#), which describes how local outbreaks of Covid19 will be managed.

In the event of an outbreak or if there are concerns about the operational running of the setting or the impact on education and learning as a result of case numbers, a request for support should be requested by emailing COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk From the Autumn term the LA will require you to attach a copy of your outbreak management plan.

What is an outbreak?

For most education and childcare settings an outbreak is likely to be identified, whichever one of these thresholds is reached first:

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

Settings may also contact the LA for advice and support if they have concerns about the operational running of the setting or the impact on education and learning or impact on vulnerable pupils as a result of case numbers

NB- The LA will also be monitoring cases in settings through the surveillance data and will contact the setting if information suggests there is an outbreak.

Supplementary Risk assessment - additional controls in the event of an Outbreak

Review your existing risk assessment controls for effectiveness (E.g. hand hygiene, cleaning regimes and ventilation) ensure these are robust, reinforced to staff and students and enhanced if / where required.

Additional control measures

In the event of an outbreak the school's COVID-19 risk assessment will be reviewed and updated. There may be a need to introduce additional measures to mitigate the risk of transmission, examples of these are detailed below and should be introduced as appropriate based on the circumstances of the outbreak. ***Any restrictions on attendance would only be considered in extreme circumstances and as a last resort.***

| Additional Outbreak controls | Action by who? | Action by when? | Done |
|---|--|-----------------|------|
| <p>Face Coverings</p> <p>Primary schools re-introduction of face coverings would apply for visitors and staff in corridors and communal areas, including staffrooms (where close contact cannot be avoided).</p> | LW | | |
| <p>Enhanced cleaning</p> <p>School's cleaning schedule reviewed and enhanced during the duration of the outbreak. In-particular for rooms used by multiple groups / classes.</p> | TKB/AF | | |
| <p>Limit the use of some shared areas for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated toilets for year groups • Toilets used at break and lunch will be reverted to year group toilets rather than communal toilets in corridor | TKB/AF | | |
| <p>Resources that are shared between different groups/classes such as sports, art, and science equipment, should be cleaned frequently and between use by different classes / groups.</p> | Class Teachers/ DS& Sports Apprentice | | |
| <p>Limiting activities</p> <p>Planned events / activities (e.g. open days, transition, or taster days) reviewed and specific risk assessments conducted to determine if these can proceed in line with an agreed system of additional controls (limitation on numbers attending, wearing of face coverings, one way systems, enhanced cleaning regime etc.) or should be postponed. Consider a move to hybrid or remote delivery.</p> | LW Review activities for the next two weeks | | |

| Additional Outbreak controls | Action by who? | Action by when? | Done |
|--|----------------|-----------------|------|
| <p>Re-introduction of bubbles (detail how this would be achieved, nature and size of bubbles to be as small as practicable to reduce transmission risk whilst delivering full curriculum). Groups to remain clear and consistent and separated from other groups.</p> <p>Bubbles will initially be moved to year groups – no mixing at break or lunch – reviewed after 10 days and may revert to classes if absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Limiting interaction between groups by: Staggering breaks and lunch; Minimise rooms / spaces being shared across groups; Cleaning shared spaces between use by different groups e.g. canteen, school library etc. No groups are coming together for assemblies, events / school fairs, school trips etc.</p> <p>The reintroduction of bubbles for a temporary period, may be required to reduce mixing between groups. In line with the DfE guidance any decision to recommend the reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.</p> <p>Should a move to bubbles be made then enhanced cleaning and/or quarantining of shared equipment would be required alongside the introduction of bubbles.</p> | LW/LJ | | |
| <p>Testing</p> <p>Home testing Continue to provide LFD testing kits to staff and students and encourage 2x week testing.</p> | LW/LJ | | |

Restrictions on attendance

Restrictions on attendance would only be considered in extreme circumstances and as a last resort.

Additional measures would be implemented based on advice from the Local Authority, Director of Public Health (DsPH), Public Health England or Central Government.

If advised to limit attendance due to COVID cases the school's remote learning plans will be reintroduced.

Self-isolation

NHS test and Trace will not advise adults who have been double vaccinated or children under 18 identified as close contacts to self-isolate from the 16th August 2021. However the LA may identify close contacts and advise they do not attend the setting in an outbreak situation.

Prioritising certain year groups

DfE has stated in their contingency framework that Early years and primary settings should be prioritised to continue to operate as normal. The DfE may advise that other groups should be prioritised.

Primary Schools

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend.

Limits on Attendance

If attendance needs to be restricted further then in all circumstances, priority should continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

If attendance restrictions are required across an area the Government will publish detailed operational guidance for schools.

Should restrictions on site be needed the school will determine the workforce required on site and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely.

School meals

The school will continue to provide meal options for all pupils in school.

Free school meals support in the form of meals or lunch parcels for those eligible for free school meals and not attending school.