

COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Hope Corner School

Approved by:	Theresa Worrall - Chair of Governors	Date: September 2021
---------------------	---	-----------------------------

Last reviewed on:	September 2021
--------------------------	----------------

Next review due by:	December 2021 or as public health advice changes
----------------------------	--

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Seeking public health advice.....	2
3. Testing	2
4. Face coverings.....	2
5. Shielding	3
6. Other measures	3
7. Attendance restrictions.....	3

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published 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), directors 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:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when the following thresholds are met:
 - **There are 2 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period**
- 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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Head Teacher will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) and Public.Health@halton.gov.uk

3. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff.

4. Face coverings

If recommended, pupils and staff who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Will be asked to put on a face covering on school transport or in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.

- › Visitors will only come into school for essential meetings/therapeutic work with students and will be asked to wear face coverings at all times in the school.

5. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

6. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done initially via the school text system and followed with a letter once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- › Residential educational visits
- › Open days
- › Transition or taster days
- › Parents coming into school
- › Live performances

7. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

7.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will move to the blended learning model outlined in our Remote Learning Policy which ensures all students will have part of the day in school and part learning at home. As all the school's students are Vulnerable, as long as we can safely staff the school, we will ensure every student can attend school every day for a period of time unless otherwise advised by Public Health.

7.2 Education and support for pupils at home

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

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

A packed lunch will be available to take home for students who are attending part days. The school will deliver a packed lunch to those in isolation.

7.3 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

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

Contact numbers for DSL and DDSLs on the staff Safeguarding Noticeboard if discussion is needed with a safeguarding lead not in school.

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

When students are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where appropriate, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Ensure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision