

Highfield Primary Covid Contingency Management Plan

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans (sometimes called contingency plans) outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in this document were recommended for their setting or area. This includes how they would ensure every child, pupil or student receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

Principles

Prioritising education

The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Decision-makers should 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.

Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review, and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Measures affecting education and childcare settings across an area should not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures.

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

Where measures include attendance restrictions, the Department for Education (DfE) may advise on any groups that should be prioritised.

The government will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way settings should operate.

Who provides guidance to schools should there be an outbreak?

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks. They play an important role in providing support and advice to schools. We notify and request advice from the Local authority should there be an outbreak which is defined as "several cases within a 14 day period".

Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort in extreme circumstances and as a last resort.

High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils or students not attending. The schools successful remote learning policy will be implemented at this time. This policy is on the school website should you wish to read it.

Primary schools

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend.

If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend.

Measures that settings should plan for should there be an outbreak

Settings should make sure their outbreak management plans cover the possibility they are advised to limit:

residential and educational visits

open days

workshops

transition or taster days

parental attendance in settings

performances in settings

fayres

assemblies

swimming

clubs

inter school events

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) may recommend these precautions in one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

If you cannot work from home, we are no longer advising that you do not attend the workplace. Your employer is required to take steps to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace and should be able to explain to you the measures they have put in place to keep you safe at work. Some employers may introduce regular testing of employees as part of these measures.

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