

INFECTIOUS DISEASES COVID-19 (March 2022)

EARLY YEARS

Hazard/ Activity	Persons at Risk	Risk	Control measures in use	Residual risk rating H / M / L	Further Action Required	
					YES	NO
Awareness of policies and procedures	Staff Pupils Others	Inadequate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff, parents, governors, visitors and volunteers are aware of all relevant policies and procedures. • All staff have access to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013 • The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 • Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities' • DfE and PHE (2020) 'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings' • The relevant staff receive any necessary training that helps minimise the spread of infection, e.g. infection control training. • The school keeps up-to-date with advice issued by, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfE • NHS • Department for Health and Social Care • United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) • Local Public Health • Staff are made aware of the school's infection control procedures in relation to coronavirus via email or staff meetings and contact the school as soon as possible if they believe they may have been exposed to coronavirus. 	MED		✓

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are made aware of the need to tell a member of staff if they feel unwell. 			
Disruption to the running of the school in cases of local outbreak	Staff Pupils Others	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there are substantial number of confirmed cases, you may have a local outbreak. Principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings is described in the contingency framework. Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (publishing.service.gov.uk) You should call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan. You can reach them by calling the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case. Any measures should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. 	MED		✓
New Omicron variant	Staff Pupils	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School leaders are best placed to determine the workforce required to meet the needs of their pupils. The government is no longer advising people to work from home if they can. 	MED		✓
Cleaning of school	Staff Pupils Others	Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All hard surfaces to be cleaned on a regular basis, this will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All door handles ➤ All tables used by staff and pupils ➤ Toilet flushes and regular cleaning of toilets. All classrooms to have spray disinfectant. Cloths are washed each day after use. Regular cleaning of surfaces will reduce the risk of spreading the virus. All used cloths thrown away to be double bagged and then placed in a secure area i.e. lockable bin. 	MED		✓

Ventilation class/office	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify any poorly ventilated spaces and take steps to improve fresh air flow. • If mechanical ventilation systems are used to draw fresh air or extract air from a room these should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible. • Ensure that mechanical ventilation systems only circulate fresh outside air and where this is not possible, in a single room supplement with an outdoor air supply. • Where appropriate open external windows, internal doors and external doors to improve natural ventilation. • If external doors are opened, ensure that they are not fire doors and are safe to do so. 	MED		✓
Poor hygiene practice	Staff Pupils Others	Ill health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should continue to ensure that children clean their hands regularly, this can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. • Staff and visitors are encouraged to wash their hands with soap or alcohol-based sanitiser (that contains no less than 60% alcohol) and follow infection control procedures in accordance with the DfE and UKHSA's guidance. • Sufficient amounts of soap (or hand sanitiser where applicable), clean water and paper towels are supplied in all toilets and kitchen areas. • Pupils are supervised by staff when washing their hands to ensure it is done correctly, where necessary. • Pupils are not allowed to share cutlery, cups or food. • All cutlery and cups are thoroughly cleaned before and after use. • Cleaners to carry out daily, thorough cleaning that follows national guidance and is compliant with the COSHH Policy and the Health and Safety Policy. • A senior member of staff arranges enhanced cleaning to be undertaken where required – advice about 	MED		✓

			enhanced cleaning protocols is sought from the HPT/UKHSA.			
Spread of infection	Staff Pupils Others	Lack of infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spillages of bodily fluids, e.g. respiratory and nasal discharges, are cleaned up immediately in line with guidance, using PPE at all times. Parents are informed not to bring their children to school or on the school premises if they show signs of being unwell and believe they have been exposed to Corona Virus. Pupils who are unwell are not taken on school trips or permitted to enter public areas used for teaching, e.g. swimming pools. Parents notify the school if their child has an impaired immune system or a medical condition that means they are vulnerable to infections. The school in liaison with individuals' medical professionals where necessary, reviews the needs of pupils who are vulnerable to infections. Any additional provisions for pupils who are vulnerable to infections are put in place by the Headteacher, in liaison with the pupil's parents where necessary. 	MED		✓
Classroom management	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is no longer required for forward facing tables etc however care should still be taken on table management in a classroom setting. It would be sensible to revert back to previous control measures in the event of a local outbreak. Continue to use a cautious approach with arrangements. 	MED		✓
Singing and parent and child groups	Pupils Staff Parents	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions in place for singing in groups. 	MED		✓
Lunchtimes	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunchtime arrangements can revert back to previous arrangements. Tables must still be cleaned on a regular basis throughout dinner time activities. 	MED		✓

Playtime and using equipment	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous playtimes and groups can be reinstated and no restrictions in place regarding using and sharing play equipment. 	MED		✓
Personal Protective Equipment Face coverings	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 27 January 2022, we no longer recommend that face coverings should be worn by any staff or adult visitors when moving around premises, such as in corridors and communal areas. Everyone should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of education settings, including on transport to and from education settings. • Children of primary school age and early years children should not be advised to wear face coverings. • Any guidance should allow for circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings. • In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission. 	MED		✓
Ill health	Staff Pupils Others	Coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed of the symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, e.g. a cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste and high temperature and are kept up-to-date with national guidance about the signs, symptoms and transmission of coronavirus. • Any pupil or member of staff who displays signs of being unwell, such as having a cough, fever or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, and believes they have been exposed to coronavirus, is immediately taken out of the class and placed in an area where they will not come into contact with others and are supervised at all times. • For pupils the relevant member of staff calls for emergency assistance immediately if pupils' symptoms worsen. • The parents of unwell pupils are informed as soon as possible of the situation by a relevant member of staff. 	MED		✓

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where contact with a pupil's parents cannot be made, appropriate procedures are followed in accordance with those outlined in governmental guidance. • Unwell pupils who are waiting to go home are kept in an area where they can be at least two metres away from others. • Areas used by unwell staff and pupils who need to go home are appropriately cleaned once vacated, using a disinfectant and care to be taken when cleaning all hard surfaces. • If unwell pupils and staff are waiting to go home, they are instructed to use different toilets to the rest of the school to minimise the spread of infection. • Any pupils who display signs of infection are taken home immediately, or as soon as practicable, by their parents – the parents are advised to contact NHS 111 immediately or call 999 if the pupil becomes seriously ill or their life is at risk. • Any members of staff who display signs of infection are sent home immediately and are advised to contact NHS 111 immediately or call 999 if they become seriously ill or their life is at risk. • Any medication given to ease the unwell individual's symptoms, e.g. Paracetamol, is administered in accordance with the Administering Medications Policy. • Pupils and staff should return to school as soon as isolation rules allow. 			
Poor management of infectious diseases	Staff Pupils Others	Lack of infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are instructed to monitor themselves and others and look out for similar symptoms if a pupil or staff member has been sent home with suspected coronavirus. • Staff are vigilant and report concerns about their own, a colleague's or a pupil's symptoms to the Headteacher or SLT as soon as possible. 	MED		✓

- The school is consistent in its approach to the management of suspected and confirmed cases of coronavirus.
 - The school is informed by pupils' parents when pupils return to school after having coronavirus – the school informs the relevant staff.
 - Staff inform the Headteacher when they plan to return to work after having coronavirus.
 - A nominated person monitors the cleaning standards of school cleaning contractors and discusses any additional measures required with regards to managing the spread of coronavirus.
- Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.
- For most education and childcare settings, whichever 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
- For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:
 - All settings should seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19 by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1), or in line with other local arrangements. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Settings may be offered public health

			<p>support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settings may wish to seek additional public health advice if they are concerned about transmission in the setting. 			
Lack of communication	Staff Pupils Others	Unsafe practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school staff reports immediately to the Headteacher about any cases of suspected coronavirus, even if they are unsure. Schools keep staff and parents adequately updated about any changes to infection control procedures as necessary. 	MED		✓
Asymptomatic testing	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the 21st of February 2022, staff in Early Years settings will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow testing advice for general population. In the event of an outbreak, a setting may also be advised by their local health team or Director of Public Health to increase testing for a period of time. 	MED		✓
Visitors to schools	Visitors Contractors	Infection Control		MED		✓
New variant of concern – Omicron	Staff Pupils Others	Spread of omicron variant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present, the Omicron variant of COVID- 19 is the dominant strain. Following the latest public health advice, we know that Omicron presents low risk to most children, young people and fully vaccinated adults. Most people will only experience mild or asymptomatic illness which combined with vaccination allows education testing to be in line with the wider society and bring greater normality to the school day. 	MED		✓
Self-isolation and managing positive cases	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the 24th of February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end. 	MED		✓

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults and pupils who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. Staff, children and young people who are contacts should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact with their household, unless they are able to work from home. If anyone has any of the main symptoms or a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. If they test positive, they are advised to follow public health advice. 			
COVID Staff Absences	Pupils Staff	Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We consider COVID-19 to be an exceptional circumstance in which the staff-to-child ratios set out in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) can temporarily be changed if necessary, for example to respond to COVID-related workforce absences. In some cases, providers may choose to respond to staff and child absences by temporarily mixing age groups of children who would otherwise be educated or cared for separately. Ratios should be guided by all relevant requirements and by the needs of individual children within the group. In all circumstances, early years settings and schools remain responsible for maintaining the quality of care, safety and security of children. 	MED		✓
Returning back to school after	Staff Pupils	Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue 	MED		✓

a positive LFT/PCR			to follow guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.			
Reporting to OFSTED	Pupils Staff Others	Legal requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the 21st of February 2022, you are no longer required to notify Ofsted, or the childminder agency with which you are registered, of any COVID-19 cases in the setting, whether that is of a child or staff member. It is a legal requirement to report any change to the premises that may affect the quality of childcare, i.e. if your setting is closed for three days or more. This will need to be reported within 14 days. Ofsted will only need to know about COVID-19 if the severity and impact on an individual impacts the ongoing provision in line with EYFS statutory framework. 	MED		✓
Admitting children into school	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or LPH advice. 	MED		✓
CEV children	Pupils Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK Clinical Review Panel has recommended that no children and young people under the age of 18 should be considered CEV and under-18s should be removed from the shielded patient list. Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same COVID 19 guidance as the rest of the population. They may wish to take extra precautions, however. If a child or young person has been advised to reduce their social contact by their specialist, due to the 	MED		✓

			nature of their medical condition or treatment, rather than because of the pandemic, they should continue to follow the advice of the specialist.			
Staff CEV	Staff	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEV people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus. The government is no longer advising people to work from home if they can. The school will follow DHSC updated guidance. 	MED		✓
Pregnant Staff	Staff	Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school must follow the guidance published by the Government Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 	MED		✓
Mandatory Certification	Staff Visitors	Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early years settings are not required to use the NHS COVID Pass From 27 January, mandatory certification is no longer in place and so venues and events are not required by law to use the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry, but some may do so voluntarily. Further information on this is available: Using your NHS COVID Pass for travel abroad and at venues and settings in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Under 18s are exempt from showing their COVID Status but should be counted towards attendance thresholds. You should not use the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry for education, childcare or related activities such as teaching, extra-curricular activities or any other day-to-day activities that are part of education or training. 	MED		✓
Educational visits	Pupils Staff	Financial risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be subject to risk assessments as normal and reflect any public health advice or in-country advice of the international destination. If booking new visits, ensure that the school has adequate financial protection in place. 	MED		✓

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the start of the Autumn school term you can go on international visits. • You should be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into red. • The travel lists may change during a visit and you must comply with international travel legislation and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes. • The school should have a contingency plan in place to account for any changes in the government travel list. • Full risk assessments must be undertaken, ensure any United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or LPH advice (such as hygiene and ventilation requirements) are included in it. • Consider whether to go ahead with planned international educational visits at this time, recognising the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK. • All travellers arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. • All red list arrivals will enter quarantine. 			
Transport and face coverings	Pupils Staff Others	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 27 January, staff and pupils should follow https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own outside of school, including on transport to and from school. • It is important to ensure vehicles are well ventilated when occupied, by opening windows and ceiling vents. The need for increased ventilation while 	MED		✓

maintaining a comfortable temperature should be balanced.

On dedicated transport:

- It is no longer recommended maximising distance and minimising mixing, but unnecessary risks such as overcrowding should be minimised.
- Children, young people and adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.
- They should not board dedicated transport or public transport if they have symptoms or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19.
- If a child or young person develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, while at school, they will be sent home.
- They should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.
- In exceptional circumstances, if parents or carers cannot arrange to have their child collected, alternative arrangements may need to be organised by the school.
- More information on organising transport for children with symptoms is provided at guidance on the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings.
- Schools should have contingency plans outlining how they would operate if the number of positive cases substantially increases in the school or local area.
- Principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings are described in the contingency framework.
- School will follow director of public health advice in cases of local outbreak.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools put into place any actions or precautions advised by their local HPT. 			
Travel and quarantine	Staff Pupils Others	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated passengers and under 18s arriving in England will only need to take a lateral flow test, not a PCR test. Anyone taking a lateral flow test and testing positive will need to self-isolate and take a free confirmatory PCR test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All red list arrivals will enter quarantine. 	MED		✓
Performances	Staff Pupils Others	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep venue well ventilated. Hand sanitiser to be available and parents actively encouraged to use. Frequent cleaning of touch points. Encourage parents to carry out a Lateral Flow Test before attending. 	MED		✓
Out of school settings Parents attendance	Pupils Parents Staff Others	Infection control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the provider is following the relevant after-school clubs guidance to reduce the risk of infection https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak. Parents are no longer limited to specific number attendance. Ensure up to date contact information is available in the event of an emergency. Keep a record of where and when your child attends a setting to help NHS Test and Trace identify contacts. Out of school settings will not be expected to undertake contact tracing. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 if they are fully vaccinated, below the age of 18 years and 6 months, taking part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine 	MED		✓

trial or are unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons. Instead they will be advised to follow the Stay at Home Guidance.

- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).. They will not need to wear a face covering within the setting.
- Check with the provider that they are following the relevant guidance to reduce the risk of infection.
- If the number of positive cases substantially increases, please refer to the Outbreak Management Plan.