

Schools COVID-19 Risk Assessment – April 2022



Summary

Previous guidance for school leaders has now been withdrawn. Educational settings are now advised to treat Covid as any other respiratory illness. This risk assessment highlights some changes to previous guidance for reference.

Mixing and ‘bubbles’

We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). Assemblies are also operating in line with pre-covid guidance and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

Reintroducing of bubbles would only come into force if Government Guidance changes and advises education settings to reintroduce bubbles. **This may be a possibility should a new variant emerge.**

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Public Health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February 2022. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. **Contact tracing has ended.**

We may seek additional public health advice if we are concerned about transmission in our setting either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or the Sheffield LA public health team.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Face coverings are now optional. No pupil or student will be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.

Should the director of public health advise us that face coverings should be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). We will ensure our contingency plans cover this possibility. This is only likely should a new variant emerge.

Carbon dioxide monitors

Carbon monoxide detection units are situated in areas where ventilation may be poor settings, so we can quickly identify where ventilation may need to be improved. This is good practice that came into force during covid and will continue in our setting to ensure good ventilation.

The ventilation in our setting is set to fresh air to ensure that the air being circulated comes from outdoors and does not circulate recycled air to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken.

Stepping measures up and down

Contingency plans are in place outlining how we would operate if extra measures are needed in exceptional circumstances. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any 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.

Control measures in place

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone


Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	School Response and Actions
Hand hygiene Respiratory hygiene Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)	Transmission of the virus	Staff & pupils	Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. Previous guidance in place was withdrawn in April 2022	

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents

Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	School Response and Actions
Cleaning	Transmission of the virus	Staff & pupils	A regular cleaning schedule is in place to ensure that all areas frequently cleaned.	

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	School Response and Actions
Ventilation	Transmission of the virus	Staff & pupils	<p>When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Do not wedge fire doors open.</p> <p>You should identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.</p> <p>If possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply.</p> <p>Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, you should ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.</p> <p>Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).</p> <p>You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. The CIBSE COVID-19 advice provides more information.</p>	<p>Windows to be opened and fresh air ventilation is in place without our setting</p> <p>Air purifiers are in place as well as monitoring products to ensure ventilation is suitable.</p> <p>In place</p> <p>Statutory inspections are in place.</p>

			<p>CO2 monitors have been provided to state-funded education settings, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.</p> <p>Below is a copy of the ventilation guidance produced by Public Health colleagues</p> <p> Natural ventilation SCC PH guidance note</p>	
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4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	School Response and Actions
When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test	Transmission of the virus	Staff & pupils	<p>There is no longer a requirement for students or staff to self-isolate. Staff and students are only required to stay at home if they have symptoms and also feel too unwell to attend school.</p> <p>In the event of an outbreak, a school may also be advised by their local health team or director of public health to undertake testing for staff and students of secondary age and above for a period of time.</p>	Await further instructions from the DFE

5. Other Considerations (Children & Staff who are CEV, Pregnant, pupil wellbeing & Support etc)

Potential Hazard	Risk	Who might be harmed	Existing control measures	School Response and Actions
<p>Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)</p> <p>Pupil Wellbeing & Support</p> <p>Staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)</p>	Transmission of the virus	Staff & pupils	<p>All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or another specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.</p> <p>Further information is available in the guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.</p> <p>Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress, or low mood. You can access useful links and sources of support on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools.</p> <p>Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups are advised to continue to follow guidance for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19. Children and young people over the age of 12 with a weakened immune system should follow guidance for people</p>	Pastoral Support is available.

Pregnancy			<p>whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19.</p> <p>Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same COVID_19 guidance as the rest of the population.</p> <div data-bbox="860 576 922 639" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>COVID-19 Individual Staff Risk Assesmer</p> <p>All pregnant individuals should have a risk assessment undertaken that will include general guidance and assessment of additional needs around respiratory infections and advice/control measure implemented on an individual circumstance</p> <p><i>“Information contained in the RCOG/RCM guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) in pregnancy should be used as the basis for a risk assessment.”</i></p> <p>Action for Schools to take:</p> <p>This means that an important key action for schools is for you to undertake an individual pregnancy risk assessment with your staff member, using the form below.</p>	
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			 <p>Pregnancy Risk Assessment.docx</p> <p>You will need to consider some pregnant women are at a higher risk of developing serious illness, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pregnant women from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds • women over the age of 35 • women who are <u>overweight or obese</u> • women who have pre-existing medical problems, such as high blood pressure and <u>diabetes</u> <p>Therefore, it is helpful to factor these issues in to any pregnancy risk assessment.</p>	
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Educational visits

There is no longer a need to undertake a Covid risk assessment for school trips.