

## Outbreak Management Plan

### Baseline Measures

Staff are continuing to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, every Saturday and Wednesday. Although testing remains voluntary it is strongly encouraged.

Those who test positive are asked to isolate, take a further (LFD) test 24 hours later, and continue to isolate if the result is positive. Day 0 is the first positive test.

Under 18s and **double vaccinated** adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case, unless they have symptoms. Further information is available in NHS Test and Trace: *what to do if you are contacted and the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.*

School will continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, and follow public health advice on testing and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

School will continue to promote a strong message about signs and symptoms, isolation advice and testing, to support prompt isolation of suspected cases.

### What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

#### Key actions

Schools no longer report all cases, but need to notify the Local Health Protection Team (HPT) of any confirmed COVID cases (in staff or children) reported to them, **when there are 5 or more linked cases or 10%** of the school tests positive. HPT will be notified separately through Track and Trace of any staff or child who is tested and confirmed to have COVID-19, but schools are asked to notify directly when this threshold is reached.

Where the threshold has been met, classes, groups or school will move to outbreak control measures.

### What happens in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak?

An outbreak is currently defined as:

- Five or more confirmed linked cases of COVID-19 among children or staff in the school
- An overall increase, resulting in 10% of the school having confirmed COVID-19.

#### Key actions

Once an outbreak has been declared, the local system (for example directors of public health and local authority public health teams) should be informed as per local protocols (Public Health England Health Protection Team), and where necessary (for example complex situations, with large numbers of cases) an outbreak control team (OCT) may be considered. BMBC will support with planning for local outbreaks in schools (e.g. defining monitoring arrangements, potential scenarios and planning the required responses).

### **Confidentiality**

Health protection teams are duty bound to manage personal case details in strict confidence. Information given to schools from the team for distribution during an outbreak will never name cases or give out any personal details.

### **Stepping up measures during an outbreak**

The current threshold for school is **5 linked cases or 10%** of the school with confirmed positive COVID-19. Upon reaching the threshold, school will review and reinforce the hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. Measures will include:

- Moving classes or year groups to a bubble, with no indoor mixing, and the use of designated toilets
- Staff continuing to wear masks in communal areas
- Continuing to monitor and review hygiene and increased ventilation using shared CO2 monitors and through keeping windows and doors open, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- Reminding parents / carers that children should not attend school if they have any COVID symptoms
- School daily checking the number of cases, in particular looking at class trends / whole school trends
- In extreme cases, where staffing is heavily impacted, supervised learning\* (in school) or upon Public Health advice moving to remote learning – please note that our first priority is to protect the most vulnerable, keep school open and children in school
- If kitchen staff are impacted, then children may be asked to bring a packed lunch

*\*What does supervised learning mean? In extreme cases, where there are insufficient teachers for each class, and no supply teachers are available, classes will be taught remotely by teachers who are in school or teachers who are isolating – if they are well enough to do so. If there are insufficient staff to provide safe supervision, then as a last resort children may need to move to remote learning from home. Parents / Carers will be advised if this is the case.*

**Please visit our school website (remote learning) to read further information about this.**

We will also continue to consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment

### **What happens if someone becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms at a school?**

If anyone (child or staff member) in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: *guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection*. Children should not attend school if they have any of these symptoms, even with a negative LFD. Children should be taken for a PCR and receive a negative result before returning to school.

### Steps to take immediately in the school if a child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms

- In an emergency call 999 if anyone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.
- **If a child is awaiting being picked up from School** they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- **If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected**, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- **When to use PPE:** PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).
- **What the staff member should do:** If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
- **If a child tests positive - self-isolation:** Parent/carer will need to be informed that the child will have to self-isolate for at least 7 days, provided that they test negative on an LFD on days 6 and 7 and that they do not have a high temperature. The day of onset of symptoms LFD or PCR test is counted as Day 0 not Day 1.

For further details on protective measures Schools should be taking please refer to Coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

### Close Contacts and households

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are **strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.** Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

#### **Arranging for a test**

- All staff and children who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, they should not attend school if they have symptoms and should get a PCR test in this scenario.
- A test can be arranged by visiting NHS.UK to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

There are three ways to get a test via the self-referral portal:

- 1) Book an appointment at a regional testing site
- 2) Book an appointment at a mobile testing unit
- 3) Request a home delivery test.

#### **Contact details**

Local Health Protection Team (Public Health England): 0113 3860 300

Department of Education's helpline for schools - 0800 046 8687 - should respond to all queries from schools (particularly in relation to published guidance)

Barnsley Council Public Health Nursing Single Point of Access (SPA) on 01226 774411 Monday to Thursday 8.45 am to 4.45 pm and Fridays 8.45 am to 4.15 pm (except for Bank Holidays) or the School Public Health Nursing Service link