



May we give them the roots to grow and the wings to fly



Easington C of E Primary School Outbreak Plan

Last updated – November 2021

1. Purpose

The outbreak plan template for schools aims to guide schools in the actions, which they need plan for to respond to either a local outbreak of COVID-19 (including variants of concern) or an outbreak in their setting.

This Outbreak Plan has been revised in accordance with the most recent version of the national contingency framework for education and childcare settings. The guidance should be read alongside this national document (see below).

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (last updated 13th October 2021)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings and sets out that local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks and that they play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings. The measures described in the contingency framework are reflected in this template.

2. Context

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak schools guidance at step 4 (last updated 27th September 2021)

Link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance

The preventative measures which schools need to maintain are outlined and covered in this guidance. Schools will still require a current risk assessment and proportionate control measures including: good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, environmental cleaning, good ventilation, testing in accordance with current guidance and the management of cases and contacts in line with current public health advice.

In addition, if there is an outbreak of coronavirus in school then some additional measures which may be advised on a temporary basis in an outbreak situation. These measures are reflected in this template.

3. Thresholds for Action

National guidance recommends that for most settings it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they



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are concerned and appendix 1 provides details of the process for contacting Durham County Council.

Mainstream primary and secondary schools:

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

Or

If any case of COVID-19 in school has resulted in that person being hospitalised

*in the same cohort, for example class/year group/activity group/friendship group/home to school transport

4. Outbreak definition

A standard outbreak definition is two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases associated with the setting with an onset of illness in the last 14 days and:

- where the cases are likely to have been exposed to each other using the close contact definition (within 2m for more than 15 minutes, within 1m for 1 minute, within 1m and face to face for any amount of time, shared a small vehicle for any amount of time)

Or

- where there is no sustained community transmission

5. Outbreak assessment

An assessment of an outbreak is undertaken, in most instances when the threshold for action is reached, by working with public health who will advise on public health actions and this assessment is made taking into account the current position regarding COVID-19 in the population.

6. Outbreak Management Plan

All education and childcare settings should have an outbreak management plan outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described below 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 - please follow the link to



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see Easington C of E Contingency Plan - [Easington-Church-of-England-Primary-School-21.1.21-review.pdf \(easington-pri.durham.sch.uk\)](https://www.easington-pri.durham.sch.uk/review.pdf)

Public Health Actions to be included:

1) **Prevention measures:**

Review the current COVID-19 risk assessment and ensure that all prevention measures are fully implemented. Where needed seek advice from your health and safety advisor.

2) **Bubbles**

Bubbles may need to be reintroduced and please plan for how these would be reinstated for each of your classes and/or year groups in school.

3) **Face coverings**

Face coverings may need to be reintroduction for staff (all schools) and students (secondary age pupils/schools and colleges, and as previously there will be reasonable exemptions for their use.

This may include face coverings in communal areas (for pupils, students and staff) and/or classrooms (for both pupils, students and staff).

Please refer to the section covering face coverings in your current risk assessment.

4) **Testing:**

Increased testing may be advised this may include:

Increased use of home testing by staff (all schools) and pupils and students (secondary age pupils/schools and colleges).

In accordance with the testing guidance in the current risk assessment schools may be advised to:

Request more frequent use of home LFD testing by some staff (all schools) and pupils and students (secondary age pupils/schools and colleges) for a specified period, for example 7days.

Please refer to the section covering testing in your current risk assessment.

5) **Shielding**

Should shielding be reintroduced by national government then those on the shielded patient list should follow national guidance. Shielded pupils will be required to learn remotely from home. Shielded staff will be required to work from home.



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6) Other activities

A range of activities may be paused or restricted during an outbreak including: educational visits, residential educational visits, open days, transition days, parental attendance, live performances and use of the school premises by other organisations.

7) Contact tracing

Contact tracing may be reinstated and in this situation DCC will work with schools to ascertain the contacts of cases during their infectious period and will provide a template letter for schools to share with identified contacts advising the contact to seek a PCR test and where not exempt, to self-isolate.

For primary school age pupils the whole class would usually be considered contacts of a case.

8) Attendance restrictions

Settings should make sure their outbreak management plans cover the possibility they are advised to limit attendance, although this would be a measure of last resort.

High-quality remote education should be provided for all pupils or students not attending.

In all circumstances, priority should continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

Early years settings

If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should be allowed to attend.

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.

9) **Other areas which you may wish to include are:**

Safeguarding

Meals

IT Access

Communications



Contingency plans for staff and pupil absence

Appendix 1

DCC draft reporting process.

Two separate process slides are required as the thresholds for reporting are different between mainstream schools and special schools. Slides will be provided separately to schools.

Mainstream primary and secondary schools process:

