

COVID-19 Outbreak Framework – Stage 5 and above

This document is supplementary to the contingency plans that exist within our schools that are based upon our ability to contain and reduce viral transmission. Details of stage 1-5 are detailed in the local contingency plans.

This is a contingency management plan for a potential Covid-19 outbreak or an extension of national measures designed to control the transmission of the virus. The details have been arrived at to ensure an accurate reflection of official and current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), and Public Health England (PHE). As such, the plan is founded on the DfE Contingency Framework for managing local outbreaks of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings, alongside the DfE Schools COVID-19 operational guidance, and aims to minimize any further disruption to education whilst ensuring that the safety of our pupils, their families, our staff, and the community we serve. The plan outlines our adaptive operational management if we are advised to take extra measures to help break chains of coronavirus transmission.

The proportionate, protective measures outlined in this plan will only be invoked and implemented — in full or part — in response to recommendations provided by directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE), South West Health Protection Team (SWHPT), and/or HM Government.

The contingency plan is based upon a 5 staged, scaled evaluation of the national measures that may be implemented. These are:

Stage 1 – low risk of coronavirus transmission. All services operate as normal across schools who mitigate the risk of transmission by ventilation, hand and respiratory hygiene and appropriate cleaning and use of LFD testing.

Stage 2 – transmission rates are significant but are being managed and the impact on schools is low. There may be outbreak cases that are reported to PHE.

Stage 3 – transmission rates are rising and pressure on public services is a cause for concern. Schools are required to increase control measures (eg face coverings in circulation spaces, avoiding large gatherings such as assemblies) . DfE and PHE reports are made.

Stage 4 - high and sustained increased risk of coronavirus transmission. At this stage all non-essential events are cancelled or postponed. Schools only permit essential visitors on site. Meetings are required to be remote wherever possible. Daily LFD testing for staff is encouraged.

Stage 5 – High and enduring risk of coronavirus transmission because previous actions have failed to break chains of transmission in school, or to suppress or manage a dangerous variant being transmitted in the community, or to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS. At this stage there will be national measures to break transmission and schools must take steps to ensure that, if they are required to move to remote learning, they will be able to do so with little notice for all but vulnerable children and young people, and the children of key workers.

Steps we will take at stage 5 :

- Continue to permit only essential visitors to school. These MUST have had a negative LFD test result within 24 hours of the visit. If not they MUST take a test before they enter the site.
- Ensure staff undertake daily LFD tests.
- Cancel all non-essential events and visits.
- Hold all meetings virtually.
- Review the timetable and structure to reduce movement around the school sites and consider the actions to take for year group 'bubbles' to be reinstated. Assign specific toilets to year group 'bubbles'.
- Curtail practical activities in some subjects where cleaning regimes cannot be administered (music, singing, PE, technology and Science)
- Postpone after-school activities unless attendees are exclusively in year group 'bubbles', including those delivered by external providers.
- Re-locate Trust staff who will be required to work in identified schools and hubs in order to guide leadership and provide support where needed. This will reduce travel and movement but provide support on the ground. Admin and operations staff will also be distributed

If we enter a national lockdown we will restrict attendance to school and reintroducing remote learning. Note that such a restriction will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort and will only be invoked on the advice of DsPH.

All of our actions are designed to:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within our schools and maintain continuity in the curriculum and the quality in learning for young people.
- Implement a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' to reduce potential transmission
- Prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- Provide quality learning experiences for children to mitigate against loss of learning.
- Protect CEV staff and pupils.
- Sustain mental health of staff and pupils.