



## **IPAT COVID-19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN** (Autumn 2021)

### **Introduction**

The UK Government now requires education settings to continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE's published COVID Contingency Framework states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

Measures affecting education may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

In these cases, the Local Authority and the local Public Health England health protection team can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings. If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

This COVID-19 outbreak management plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

The best way to avoid an outbreak is to ensure preventative measures are in place. Within all of our Trust schools, the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment that reflects current Government guidance.
- Freely available hand sanitisers.
- Ventilation in all rooms.
- Appropriate PPE provided.
- LFD testing advised and stocks supplied.
- Cleaning schedule adhered to.

### **Outbreak within a school**

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting is:

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific non-residential setting with illness onset dates within 14 days, and one of the following:

- identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases;
- when there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases.

An outbreak is deemed to last 28 days from the last positive diagnosis.

Should an outbreak be identified the following steps will be undertaken:

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information.
- In collaboration with PHE and the Trust Leader, a decision will be made as to whether the school can remain fully or partially open.
- If the decision is to partially or fully close, DfE, the LA, DBE and Trustees will be informed.
- The school's remote learning plan will be implemented.
- External visits to the school will stop until deemed safe to resume.
- The school's risk assessment will be evaluated and updated in light of any learning from the outbreak.

### **School affected by Local or National measures**

The COVID situation is ever changing as are the directed responses. All schools in the Trust will ensure that they implement any Local or National restrictions and guidance. In collaboration with the Trust Leader, all schools will endeavour to limit the impact on educational delivery and learning. Each school will need to liaise with the following:

- Staff
- Parents / Carers
- Pupils
- PHE
- Local Authority
- Social Care
- DfE

The following plans are in place to support the continued delivery of education under Local or National measures:

- Deep cleaning:
  - In the event of a local outbreak or Variant of Concern, deep cleans of specific areas or the whole school will be undertaken.
- Testing:
  - All schools ensure they remain well stocked with LFD tests for staff in case increased home testing is required.
- Face coverings:
  - Should face coverings be recommended, schools will amend their risk assessment accordingly to include face coverings for adults in communal areas and classrooms.
  - All schools should retain a stock of face coverings for staff use.
- Shielding:
  - Should shielding be reintroduced, those on the shielded patient list will be supported to follow the relevant guidance. If this is a pupil, then the remote learning plan would be implemented. Shielding staff will be supported to work from home and measures put in place to support their wellbeing. Individual risk assessments will be completed for all those shielding (staff and pupils) and for pregnant and BAME staff.
- Attendance restrictions:
  - Attendance restrictions will be considered as a last resort and the DfE may advise on year groups that should be prioritised.
  - Places will be prioritised for pupils in line with the latest guidance for primary schools at the time.
  - If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should be allowed to attend.

- Safeguarding:
  - It is expected that all schools have a DSL on site, if this is not possible a senior leader will take on the responsibility for coordinating safeguarding and remote support will be given by DSLs from within the Trust.
  - Where vulnerable pupils are absent, our Trust schools will:
    - Follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable) and Virtual School Head (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns. encourage the pupil to attend educational provision,
    - Focus the discussions on the welfare of the pupil and ensuring that the child is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home.
    - Have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensuring they are safe and well and are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so.
    - If a school has to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable pupils with the local authority.
- Meals:
  - Meals will continue to be provided for those on site, those in receipt of free school meals who are not on site will either be provided with vouchers or food for the time the pupil is isolating, or the school is restricting attendance.
- IT access:
  - As part of each school's remote learning plan, details will be held of who requires a device to be provided. These will be available to be collected from school or, if there is prior warning, they will be distributed prior to class/school closures.
  - Wellbeing calls will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required.
- Educational visits:
  - Educational day and residential (domestic and international) visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of a Variant of Concern.
- Visitors:
  - In the event of a Variant of Concern, parents/carers will be advised to limit their access to our school sites as much as possible.
  - Parents/carers or visitors permitted on our school sites must have an arranged appointment.
  - All visitors will be expected to wear a face covering and will be informed of this when a meeting is booked.
  - Where possible conversations with parents/carers will be either over the phone or via email.
- Events:
  - Performances and events to which external visitors are invited will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of a Variant of Concern.