

Outbreak Management Plan

The Thomas Adams School

Introduction

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE's published COVID-19 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 and childcare 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

In these cases, the guidance also states that Councils, Directors of Public Health and Public Health England Health Protection teams 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 plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID-19, including:

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

Scenario 1 – Single Confirmed COVID-19 Case

If there is one case identified in school the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- School will liaise with Public Health and follow instructions
- School will follow Local Authority reporting guidance
- Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace (education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing)
- Remote learning plan to be implemented for those isolating

Scenario 2 – Outbreak Within Setting

Definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting:

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

- 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

Definition of an outbreak in an institutional residential setting (i.e. Boarding House):

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 or clinically suspected cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific setting with illness onset dates within 14 days.

Note: If there is a single test-confirmed case, this would initiate further investigation and risk assessment. An outbreak would be declared if the investigation ascertained a second COVID-19 case (test-confirmed or clinically suspected).

The end of an outbreak is defined as “no test-confirmed cases with illness onset dates in the last 28 days in that setting”.

The best way to avoid an outbreak in a setting is to ensure preventative measures are in place.

Within all settings the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment for each setting that reflects the current Government guidance
- Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with guidance
- Hand sanitiser will be freely available
- LFT testing will be available for staff, visitors and pupils

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

- School will liaise with Public Health and follow instructions
- School will follow Local Authority reporting guidance
- Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- In collaboration with Public Health, a decision will be made as to whether school can remain open
- DfE will be informed if the school is to close
- Local Authority will be informed if the school is to close
- In liaison with Public Health, on-site testing will be reinstated
- Remote learning plan will be implemented
- External visits to the school will stop until deemed safe
- School COVID-19 Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases

Scenario 3 – The setting is affected by a package of Local or National measures

The COVID-19 situation is ever-changing, as are the directed responses. Senior Leaders will ensure that they implement any local or national restrictions and guidance. The school will work in collaboration with professionals and stakeholders to limit the impact on educational delivery. This will include working with the following:

- Parents/carers
- Pupils
- Public Health
- Local Authority
- Social Care
- DfE

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

Testing:

- The Business Manager will ensure that the test centre remains well-stocked, and that there are sufficient home testing kits in case there is a requirement to increase home testing

Face Coverings:

- Should face coverings be recommended, the school will amend the Risk Assessment appropriately

Shielding:

- Should shielding be reintroduced, those on vulnerable lists will be supported to follow 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
- Where pupils have EHCPs and cannot attend school, a risk assessment will be undertaken to assess if they are safer at home or in school

Safeguarding:

- A Designated Safeguarding Lead will be on site whenever the school is open to pupils
- Wellbeing calls will be made regularly (in line with individual pupil risk assessments) to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

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 the school 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
- Part of the wellbeing calls will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required