

Risk Assessment: Infection Prevention, including COVID-19, in Education and Childcare Settings - v01 April 2022

The Government has now removed the remaining COVID19 restrictions in England.

The following guidance has been withdrawn:

[Withdrawn] Managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Withdrawn] Additional actions for childminders during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Withdrawn] Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Withdrawn] Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Withdrawn] Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus pandemic - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Withdrawn] Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

To be replaced by: Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Updated 8 April 2022. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council advise settings to follow this guidance which includes how to plan for emergencies, including Public Health incidents and severe weather.

Please note that the Resilience and Emergency Planning Team in the Council already work closely with many schools with the Borough. Schools who are interested in this support and would like details of the team's SLA please contact Resilience@blackburn.gov.uk in the first instance.

Additional relevant guidance:

<u>Health and safety: advice for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> Health and Safety guidance updated on 5 April 2022 and includes 'Preparation for Public Health Incidents'

Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

<u>Chapter 1: introduction to infections - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> updated on 11 April 2022 and includes a practical guide for staff in education and childcare settings, including those working in children's social care, on managing a range of infections.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Risk Assessment: Infection Prevention, including COVID-19, in Education and Childcare Settings - v01 April 2022

<u>Chapter 2: infection prevention and control - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> updated on 11 April 2022 and provides general guidance for staff in education and childcare settings on infection prevention and control measures, to aim to interrupt the chain of transmission.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that the country learns to live with, the government is moving away from stringent restrictions on everyon e's day-to-day lives towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. (Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools-GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

Therefore, while the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus, schools should consider COVID-19 as one risk amongst others in relation to health and safety risk assessments and managing risk.

In preparation for public health incidents schools must comply with health and safety law and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools must regularly review and update their risk assessments, treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in your school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

Schools must therefore make sure that a risk assessment has been undertaken to identify the measures needed to reduce the risks from public health incidents so far as is reasonably practicable.

Infections in education and childcare settings, including COVID 19, can be spread via an airborne route or through direct or close contact with another person or contaminated surfaces. More details on this to be found in Chapter 1: introduction to infections - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

To support you in managing infections in your setting, including COVID-19, please adopt this revised risk assessment. Most of the content is already familiar to you. Please adapt to your school circumstances and share with your staff.

Please note that ongoing support is still available to your setting:

- Any health protection incident* must be reported to UKHSA Local Health Protection Team (0344 225 0562 option 2). Out of hours contact: 0151 434 4819.
 This is a 24 hr service that also provides advice and guidance as needed. (*this includes infectious diseases such as hepatitis, meningitis, scarlet fever etc. as well as COVID-19)
- The <u>Department for Education Incident Support helpline</u> is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19, the current situation in Ukraine, as it relates to education and childcare settings and children's social care, or other national emergency issues.
- Education Response team: <u>EdResponseTeam@blackburn.gov.uk</u> or 01254 588199. Monday to Friday, normal working hours.

Please note that all other policies, procedures or risk assessments which may have been impacted by the previous response to Covid 19 (e.g. fire safety, mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff, lockdown, behaviour policy etc.) should be reviewed also.

Please ensure that your Fire Evacuation arrangements are reviewed and updated to reflect the current protective measures in place in school.

Adults includes staff who work at the setting, visiting staff, contractors, parents, volunteers, visitors and essential maintenance workers.

Risk Assessment: Infectious Prevention, including COVID-19, in Education and Childcare Settings - v01 April 2022

Title / Activity: Newfield School

Date completed: 23rd May 2022

Completed by: Vicki Clements

Control measures

You should:

- 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone;
- 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes;
- 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated;
- 4. Follow public health advice on self-isolation and managing possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Additional sections

- 5. Use of PPE
- 6. Vulnerable groups within the school community
- 7. Educational visits
- 8. Wraparound care and extracurricular activities
- 9. Other considerations
- 10. Monitoring

What is the hazard?	Who might be harmed? Pupils Adults		What are you doing about it?	RAG	Comment	Complete?
Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and/or vomiting and respiratory infections.	Pupils	*	 a) Settings should ensure that staff and students have access to liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Bar soap should not be used. b) All staff and pupils should be advised to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, after playtime and after touching animals. c) All cuts and abrasions should be covered with a waterproof dressing. d) Alcohol hand gel can also be used but should not replace washing hands e) See free resources on hand hygiene, including age specific lesson plan material, on the e-Bug COVID-19 website; f) Consider accessing free training on the importance of hand hygiene (Infants and Primary schools) offered by Lancashire's Infection Prevention and Control team. Provisionally planned for Sept 2022. g) Staff to help small children and those with complex needs to wash their hands thoroughly; h) Supervise use of hand sanitizer to avoid risk of ingestion; i) Ensure that staff working with pupils who spit uncontrollably or who use saliva as a sensory stimulant to have more opportunities to wash their hands than other staff; 		Pupils and students at Newfield School may require specific support to wash their hands. This may take the form of visual support and prompts to aid them in understanding the steps needed to thoroughly wash their hands or adapted access to sinks and hand washing facilities. They may need to be fully supported by adults to wash their hands. Hand washing will be explicitly taught to pupils to promote independence where possible and enhanced hand washing will be carried out by staff supporting pupils where personal care is required.	

Importance of respiratory and Cough hygiene. Coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Covering the nose and mouth during sneezing and coughing can reduce the spread of infections.			 1.2) Respiratory Hygiene Anyone with signs or symptoms of respiratory infection should: a) cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, and dispose of used tissue in waste bins and perform hand hygiene b) cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) if no tissues are available, rather than into the hand c) keep contaminated hands away from eyes and nose d) carry out hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects and materials e) Please continue to promote the catch it, kill it, bin it approach and ensure there are tissue stocks and sufficient waste bins 	Many pupils and students at Newfield require support in order to manage their personal care and hygiene. They will be supported to use tissues hygienically and dispose of them in the correct way when they have been used. SLT will ensure 'catch it, bin it, kill it' posters are displayed prominently	
			 f) Ensure all rooms are well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained; g) Ensure young children and those with complex needs receive appropriate support to be able to effectively "catch it, bin it, kill it". Back to top	and tissues are available and well stocked in all classes and communal areas.	
2) Transmission of virus through insufficient cleaning of surfaces Keeping education and childcare settings clean, including toys and equipment, reduces the risk of infection. It is especially important to clean surfaces that people touch a lot.	✓	✓	 a) Ensure that frequently touched surfaces, including high use areas i.e. bathrooms and communal kitchens, are identified and included on the cleaning schedule. b) Cleaning with detergent and water is normally all that is needed as it removes the majority of germs that can cause disease. c) Essential elements of a comprehensive cleaning contract include daily, weekly and periodic cleaning schedules. d) Although there is no legislative requirement to use a colour coding system it is good practice and recommended by the Health and Safety Executive. e) Colour-coded equipment should be used in different areas with separate equipment for kitchen, toilet, classroom and office areas (for example, red for toilets and washrooms; 	SLT will ensure that appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and that cleaning contractors are aware of the expectation regarding cleaning standards. Colour coding cleaning equipment is already in place in school. Cleaning supplies are regularly replenished and there are systems in place to ensure staff can	

	g) h)	yellow for hand wash basins and sinks; blue for general areas and green for kitchens). Cleaning equipment used should be disposable or, if reusable, disinfected after each use. Consideration should be given to situations where additional cleaning will be required including during term time (for example in the event of an outbreak) and how the setting might carry this out. A nominated member of staff should monitor cleaning standards and discuss any issues with cleaning staff, or contractors employed by the education or childcare setting. Cleaning solutions should be stored in accordance with Control of Substances of Hazardous to Health (COSHH), and cleaning equipment changed and decontaminated regularly. Effective cleaning and disinfection are critical in any education or childcare setting, particularly when food preparation is taking place. The FSA strongly advises the use of either a dishwasher, a sterilising sink, or a steam cleaner to clean and disinfect equipment and utensils. All areas or surfaces in contact with food, dirt or bodily fluids must be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Training should be provided for the use of any equipment and chemicals. Operation and maintenance of equipment should be according to the manufacturer's instructions and include regular dishwasher interior cleaning cycles. Back to top	acquire additional supplies if they need them. The monitoring of cleaning standards will be overseen by: Bill Trezise All staff will be made aware of their individual responsibility in maintaining good standards of hygiene in classrooms and communal areas. If an area becomes contaminated with bodily fluids site team will be notified immediately to enable them to take the correct remedial actions.	
3) Transmission of virus through insufficient ventilation Letting fresh air into indoor spaces can help remove air that contains virus particles		Many areas of schools education and childcare settings are already well-ventilated with plenty of air movement. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Department for Education provided education settings with access to CO2 monitors for staff to be able to identify where ventilation required improvement.	All areas of school where pupils are for longer periods of time (classrooms, halls) have outside opening windows to allows for ventilation. CO2	

and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.	If there are areas of the setting identified that may have poor ventilation, there are several simple things that can be done to improve ventilation. These include: a) partially opening windows and doors to let fresh air in b) opening higher level windows to reduce draughts c) opening windows for 10 minutes an hour or longer can help increase ventilation – where possible this can happen when the room is empty in between lessons, for example d) You should always balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. e) Ensure all rooms and buildings in school have a sufficient fresh air supply to meet the current minimum building standard. A competent ventilation engineer will advise. f) Adjust mechanical ventilation systems to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible. Maintain in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations; g) Ensure internal office spaces are wellventilated at all times. Keep doors open to allow air flow. Do not use fan heaters or desk fans when the office is occupied. Back to top
4) Transmission of virus through contact between individuals The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar. It is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection based on symptoms alone.	4.1) Symptomatic children or adults a) Follow People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) b) If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. c) Ensure all staff and parents/carers are aware of the main and other symptoms linked (but not exclusive to) with COVID-19: Main symptoms: Staff and pupils will follow the guidance in the risk assessment. Staff will be vigilant to support pupils with communication difficulties to monitor their symptoms and if staff believe a pupil is unwell they will liaise with SLT and parents to devise an appropriate course of actions. If a

 a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 	pupil or member of staff experiences any of the listed symptoms and feels to unwell to attend school they will remain
 hours a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste shortness of breath feeling tired or exhausted 	at home. There is few remaining LFTs in school which will
 an aching body a headache a sore throat a blocked or runny nose 	be reserved for the use of the most vulnerable pupils and staff in school only.
loss of appetitediarrhoeafeeling sick or being sick	High temperatures should be monitored and staff will be
Most people can no longer access free testing for COVID-19. This guidance is therefore in 2 parts: 1. Actions you can take to protect other people if you are	particularly vigilant with vulnerable pupils and those who cannot communicate how they
unwell with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and you have not taken a test for COVID-19.	are feeling. Thermometers are available for use to
2. Advice for people who have taken a COVID-19 test and have received a positive test result.	check pupils where there is a suspicion that they are experiencing as temperature or to give
1. Those who have not taken a test: Adults Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people	parents more accurate information about their child's symptoms.
If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people,	If a pupil or member of staff takes a positive test they will follow the guidance in this risk

until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you no longer feel unwell.	assessment and inform school of the result.
It is particularly important to avoid close contact with anyone who you know is at higher risk of becoming	
seriously unwell if they are infected with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, especially those whose	
immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness, despite vaccination.	
Try to work from home if you can. If you are unable to work from home, talk to your employer about options	
available to you.	
Children and young people (aged 18 years and under) who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19	
Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months	
For most children and young people, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids.	
When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education	
Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.	
Children and young people who are unwell and have a high	
temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school,	
college or childcare, and resume normal activities when	

	they no longer have a high temperature and they are well		
	enough to attend.		
	2. Those who have a positive COVID-19 test result		
	Adults		
	Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people		
	for 5 days after the day you took your test.		
	Many people with COVID-19 will no longer be infectious to		
	others after 5 days.		
	Try to work from home if you can. If you are unable to		
	work from home, talk to your employer about options		
	available to you.		
	At the end of this period, if you have a high temperature or		
	feel unwell, try to follow this advice until you feel well		
	enough to resume normal activities and you no longer have		
	a high temperature if you had one.		
	Although many people will no longer be infectious to		
	others after 5 days, some people may be infectious to		
	other people for up to 10 days from the start of their		
	infection. You should avoid meeting people at higher risk		
	of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19, especially		
	those whose immune system means that they are at higher		
	risk of serious illness from COVID-19, despite vaccination,		
	for 10 days after the day you took your test.		
	Children and young people aged 18 years and under		
	If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test		
	result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact		
	with other people for 3 days after the day they took the		
	test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not		
Discliberra with Danier Banarah Carrail Biol. As	essement: Infection Prevention, including COVID-19 in Education an	-1 -01-11-	

		have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal. Back to top	
5) Transmission of virus due ineffective use of PPE	•	Personal Protective Equipment a) If there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or bodily fluids during an activity, then disposable gloves and plastic aprons should be worn. b) Gloves and aprons should be disposable, non-powdered vinyl/nitrile or latex-free and CE marked. Wear disposable eye protection (or if reusable decontaminate prior to next use) if there is a risk of splashing to the face. Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP's) a) It is vital that all children, young people and students, including those with complex or additional health needs, are supported to continue their education and care in their education or children's social care setting, where it is safe to do so. b) An AGP is a medical procedure that can result in the release of airborne particles (aerosols) from the respiratory tract. c) Standard PPE recommendations for AGPs would include eye and face protection, apron and gloves to protect against the splashing or spraying of blood and bodily fluids. Back to top	School will continue to provide PPE for staff who are working with pupils in situation where bodily fluids may present a risk of contamination. This includes but is not exclusive to personal care, feeding and first aid. Staff will follow individual care plans to support pupils' medical needs.

6) Risks to vulnerable	✓	✓	6.1 Those previously identified as CEV	Communication will be	
groups within the school				made with staff to	
population			The success of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme	ensure they are aware of	
			has meant that the requirement for shielding and identifying	this risk assessment with	
			people as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) is no longer	any key changes	
			necessary.	highlighted.	
			Staff who were previously categorised as CEV should follow this		
			advice: Guidance for people previously considered clinically		
			extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
			Most people who were identified as CEV are now well protected		
			after receiving their primary and booster vaccination doses. For		
			most people who were CEV, you are no longer at substantially		
			greater risk than the general population, and you are advised to		
			follow the same guidance as everyone else on staying safe and		
			preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as any		
			further advice you may have received from your doctor.		
			There is no longer separate guidance for people previously		
			identified as CEV, although it is recommended that anyone with		
			underlying health conditions takes care to avoid routine coughs,		
			colds and other respiratory viruses.		
			6.2 Those who are immunosuppressed		
			There remains a smaller number of people whose immune system		
			means they are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19,		
			despite vaccination.		
			Staff who are immunosuppressed should follow this advice:		
			COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they		
			are at higher risk - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
			are at higher hisk - dov.ok (www.gov.uk)		

Most people with immunosuppression will be under the care of a hospital specialist Immunosuppression means you have a weakened immune system due to a particular health condition or because you are on medication or treatment that is suppressing your immune system. People who are immunosuppressed, or have specific other medical conditions, may have a reduced ability to fight infections and other diseases, including COVID-19. Adults who are immunosuppressed are advised to • Ensure they have had all of the vaccines they are eligible to receive Continue to follow any condition-specific advice they may have been given by their specialist Under this guidance COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (which is to be reviewed 1 July 2022) it states that immunosuppressed people should work from home if they can and if not then should discuss with the employer how any risks to them in the workplace can be reduced. A robust risk assessment must be carried out using the Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Immunosuppressed Employees - April 2022. Contact health.safety@blackburn.gov.uk for the most up to date template Please note that under the above guidance: Children and young people can continue to attend education settings unless their clinician has advised otherwise. Further information is available in the guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

			The pregnancy risk assessment in school is adapted to include a 'respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) They should also read Pregnancy and coronavirus (COVID-19) - OVHS (www.gov.uk) They should also Chapter 1: introduction to infections - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) a) All pregnant employees must undertake a general workplace risk assessment, including risks of respiratory infections, with their line manager/Headteacher. Contacthealth.safety@blackburn.gov.uk for the most up to date template. b) Risk assess all pregnant students in conjunction with their midwife. Back to top	
7) Educational Visits See also Chapter 6: educational visits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) updated 11 April 2022	•	•	a) Follow all Covid secure measures established in school whilst on a visit plus any in operation at the venue. Ensure this is included in the visit RA; b) When considering booking a new visit, whether domestic or international, you are advised to ensure that there is adequate financial protection in place; c) Refer to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office travel advice and the guidance on international travel before booking and travelling; d) Be aware of the entry requirements of the destination if travelling abroad; e) Travel rules may change during a visit and schools must comply with international travel legislation. Contingency plans should be in place to account for these changes. f) Check travel insurance in the event of a cancellation — some policies may not provide cover if a visit is booked at a time when the FCO advise against travel to the destination; g) In line with the guidance on Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19-GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	

8) Wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity	✓	√	ensure that consideration is given to staff and students aged 11 years and over, wearing face coverings in certain circumstances on a visit Back to top Follow the DfE's voluntary Code of Practice: Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) which includes managing infectious diseases and other illnesses. Back to top	Not relevant to Newfield.	
9) Other considerations	*	✓	 9.1) Welcoming children back to school after illness a) In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a child who is unwell and has symptoms of an infectious illness, such as a fever should not attend your setting, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a child with symptoms attending your setting, where they have a confirmed or suspected case of an infectious illness, you can take the decision to refuse the child if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection. Back to top 	Will be considered on a case by case basis.	
10) Monitoring	√	√	 a) The HT should have mechanisms in place to ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of control measures in this risk assessment; b) Where schools have purchased the Health and Safety SLA from the LA, please contact health.safety@blackburn.gov.uk for any support required. If not, please contact your Health and Safety provider. c) Where schools have purchased the Resilience and Emergency Planning SLA from the LA, please contact Resilience@blackburn.gov.uk for any support. 	Termly review and liaison with BwD Health and Safety where appropriate	

	Back to top	
Head Teacher Signature: D Terry	Date: 10.6.22	Date of Review: 1.09.22
Chair of Governors: S Barr Frost	Date: 10.6.22	Date of Review: 1.09.22
Local Authority: J Siddle	Date: 10.6.22	Date of Review: 1.09.22