



COVID-19 - Outbreak Management Plan

(*This plan is subject to change pending further national or regional PHE guidance and review of the Contingency framework for education and childcare settings)

Rodmersham School

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| Date of Issue | September 2021 |
| Date of next review | As government advice changes or December 2021 (whichever is soonest) |
| Person responsible for review | Hannah Rogers - Principal |

Introduction

This plan is based on the [DfE's Contingency Framework](#) which lays out how to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. The guidance states schools should have "outbreak management plans", outlining "how they would operate" if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

The contingency framework (latest edition) 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.

This may happen to help manage outbreaks in schools, or if there is an "extremely high prevalence" of Covid-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, or as part of a package of measures "responding to a variant of concern".

If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

Current DfE guidance states that a localised school outbreak is: 'whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 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'

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'Variant of Concern' (VoC)

Schools may need to consider the implementation of some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by their local Public Health team, Public Health England (PHE) health protection team, the DfE or the government.

ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

| Guidance from health protection teams | Outbreak Management Action to be taken if PHE guidance recommends it – no action will be taken without a recommendation from Public Health Teams in Northampton. | Length of Action |
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| <p>Self-isolation of close contacts It is noted that under current guidance, fully vaccinated adults and children under the years of 18 years and 6 months do not have to isolate as close contacts. <i>However</i>, in some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure. This could be the class or year group.</p> | <p>Parents informed – contacts self isolating Full remote learning provision put in place</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Re-introduction of Face Coverings The reintroduction of face coverings for staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.</p> | <p>If recommended, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as corridors and in communal areas | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Asymptomatic Testing Additional testing may be recommended to pick up any asymptomatic testing in the school community.</p> | <p>If recommended, the school will increase the use of home testing by staff. If recommended, the school will communicate to parents with advice around adult family members taking asymptomatic tests.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Increased ventilation The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak and CIBSE COVID-19 advice provides more information.</p> | <p>Reminded to keep windows opened as much as possible.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Increased cleaning Although the school will continue to maintain increased daily cleaning, the public health teams may require further increase at shorter intervals.</p> | <p>Reinforced importance of cleaning in between groups.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |

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| <p>Reduce mixing of students It is noted that under current guidance, there is no longer any need for reduced mixing for pupils. <u>However</u>, in some cases, health protection teams may recommend that bubbles are put in place for a period whilst the outbreak is in place.</p> | <p>If there is an outbreak within a class then they will be 'bubbled'. If the outbreak continues across the school, then we will revert to the two bubbles that we had previously. Assemblies will go online, as will other whole school-based activities. Dinner times continue to be separate.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Communications to staff, pupils and families In the event of an outbreak, if the health teams advise measures, these must be communicated to stakeholders.</p> | <p>All stakeholders advised of potential outbreak and mitigating actions as quickly as possible after advice has been given.</p> | |
| <p>Shielding of vulnerable members of the community</p> | <p>The school will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the shielded patient list (SPL).</p> <p>We will carry out a risk assessment and speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Reduction of wider school activities Public Health Teams may advise schools to reduce their timetable to normal school day activities. This may mean limiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential educational visits • Open days • Transition or taster days • Parents coming into school • Live performances | <p>The school will ensure that the Public Health Teams are aware of any additional activities when communicating about a potential outbreak. If these need to be limited, the school will ensure communication to stakeholder via email and text message (where possible) to ensure cancellations are understood quickly.</p> | <p>As recommended by public health teams.</p> |
| <p>Wider Attendance Restrictions - School closure or Local & National Lockdowns.</p> | | |
| <p>Attendance restrictions will only be recommended by Public Health Kent & the government as a last resort. As with other periods of restricted attendance, schools should provide "high quality remote education" for all pupils or those not attending. If attendance restrictions are required across an area, the government will publish "detailed operational guidance" for schools.</p> <p>Restrictions on attendance may be advised by local teams for individual settings or clusters (no more than 3 or 4) of "closely linked settings".</p> <p>If recommended, schools will implement the measures in this section. If restrictions in special schools are needed, the DfE's attendance expectations "will remain in line with the equivalent age groups in mainstream schools".</p> <p>Eligibility to remain in school If restrictions are recommended, schools will stay open for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerable pupils - Children of critical workers <p>Education and support for pupils at home All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive high quality remote education. Technology will be available to loan for any pupils who need it.</p> <p>Schools will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our policy and remote learning guidance.</p> | | |

The school will continue to prioritise pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines, and offer vouchers as advised by the government.

Wraparound care

In the event of school closures, we will limit wraparound care during term time to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

Schools will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

Safeguarding

The school will review their child protection systems to make sure they reflect the local restrictions and remains effective.

The school will aim have a trained DSL or members of the safeguarding team on site, or available remotely, at all times.