



Plan for managing local outbreaks (August 2021)

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance from step 4](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

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

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)

2. School seeks advice from PHE health protection team on extra measures if

- 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

Action required when one case or less than the numbers specified in the two bullet points above is explained in section 5 of this document.

3. Extra measures school may be advised to take if the above thresholds are met

Staff Testing

Irrespective of whether the above thresholds have been met, staff will continue to test at least twice weekly (Sunday and Wednesday) unless school is advised by PHE to increase the frequency.

Face Coverings

School will seek advice from PHE regarding the temporary wearing of face coverings in communal areas.

Shielding

Shielding is currently paused and can only be reintroduced by national government. We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

Other Measures

In the event of an outbreak, the continuation of activities specific to areas/groups or across the whole school will be reviewed and possibly limited or curtailed, eg:

- residential or day educational visits
- parental attendance in settings
- live performances in settings
- mixing in communal areas (eg staff room, hall)

4. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

Eligibility to remain in school

We will stay open for:

Vulnerable pupils

Children of critical workers

Children in Reception (and possibly Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)

Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We 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 <https://www.appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk/index.php?page=policies>

The school will continue to provide meals, lunch parcels or vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

Wraparound care

In the event of a local outbreak, we may be required to limit or suspend access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

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

Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

5. Contact with a positive case

The current government advice is as follows:

From Monday 16 August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace or school that they have been in close contact with a positive case and are advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal unless contacted by school because either of the two triggers in section 2 are reached and advice from PHE is to for groups of children to not attend.