

Edge Hill Academy

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan and Risk Assessment



Spring Term (January 2022)

Approved by:	Michael Mander	Date: September 2021
Last reviewed on:	14 th December 2021	
Next review due by:	End of April 2022 or as required.	

Outbreak Emergency Plan

Update 14th December 2021

Following updated Government Guidance the Outbreak Emergency Plan will be informed by the following:

Daily Testing

- From Tuesday 14th December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 -whether **Omicron or not** - should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test **every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating**.
- Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting.
- If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.
- If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result.
- If the PCR is positive, they **must self-isolate for 10 days**. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.
- All staff and **secondary aged** pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting.
- For **primary aged** children LFD test kits are available through the usual routes : community test sites, local pharmacies or online. *(This could be a problem re supplies AP)*
- Children under five **do not** need to **test or to isolate**.
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is **not vaccinated**, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. (Daily testing does not apply)
- Continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

[Daily rapid testing for COVID-19 contacts launches this week - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week)

1. Introduction

From January 2022, school will operate as normal. There will be a full time table and it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that assemblies, clubs and all school activities will be re-established. Face coverings will not be required for, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. All school risk assessments will be re-implemented.

In addition to School Risk Assessments we will continue with the following the following enhanced measures in school:

- Ensure good hygiene and frequently washing of hands for everyone.
- Continue with additional cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- All staff will continue to carry out LFT 2 times per week and notify school immediately of a positive test.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Government 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.

Edge Hill Academy's plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), 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), directors 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. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
 - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- 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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Seeking public health advice

We will keep a school register of children tested positive following a PCR test. When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The headteacher or designated member of staff will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) if necessary.

Local Authority measures

Staffordshire Local Outbreak Management team are available to support and guide school with Covid issues.

The Staffordshire LOC can be contacted from 08:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday and 10:00 – 14:00 weekends. A messaging service is available on 01785 27854004 – a member of the team will contact you as soon as possible. An emergency number is available on the messaging service.

Alternatively email C19LOC.education@staffordshire.gov.uk

Settings should monitor the levels of positive cases of Covid 19 in the same way that they would monitor absences of other infectious diseases. The removal of restrictions that were in place means that Covid may be present at low levels in settings and monitoring levels will help identify when additional actions may be appropriate.

Together LOC, PHE and settings will use the following thresholds to consider if the implementation of additional prevention measures is appropriate.

Threshold:

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% (whichever of these thresholds is reached first)

We will keep LOC informed of your levels of positive cases within our settings by submitting the Covid Case Rates Form each week when there are cases.

For the majority of settings there will be no need to notify LOC of single positive cases unless there are additional concerns.

3. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

4. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email/text/letters sent home with pupils as appropriate once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Testing, including the use of an asymptomatic test site (ATS)
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)
- Suspension of whole school assemblies.

5. Attendance restrictions

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

5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

5.2 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 Remote Learning Policy and this is available on the school website and remote learning will be delivered by Class Teams.

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

We will distribute meals as follows:

- Parents/carers will be contacted, and given a time slot to collect their Food Hamper. These will be distributed fortnightly if required.
- If parents/carers are unable to collect their hampers school will make arrangements for these to be delivered.

5.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the holidays to those that need it most.

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

5.4 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.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by via email on jfoster@edgehill.fierte.org

If our DSL (or deputy) is unavailable, please contact the heateacher on headteacher@edgehill.fierte.org

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

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision