

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan



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)

Extra action will also be considered if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening at Loose.

The thresholds, detailed below, will be used as an indication for when to seek public health advice.

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

Identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different in each situation. Below are some examples which may need to be considered:

- a childminder minding children from school, including their own
- childminders working together on the same site
- an EYFS class or year group
- a friendship group who often play together
- staff and children taking part in the same activity session together
- a form group or subject class
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity

At the point of reaching one of the above thresholds we will swiftly review our risk assessment and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation and measures already in place.

We will also consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focusing on touch points and any shared equipment

2. 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.

3. Other measures

See our current risk assessment <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID&pid=211> for measures in place to reduce risks (eg limiting parent access at start and end of day to school site) from September 2021. If recommended, we will also limit:

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

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

4. Attendance restrictions

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

4.1 Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 pupils

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

4.2 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 pathways and protocols (see our Home Learning section on the school website <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=139>).

The school will continue to provide FSM vouchers or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. Vouchers will be sent online through Wonde, lunch parcels will be collected from school at given times.

4.3 Wraparound care

We will limit 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 the restrictions are confirmed.

4.4 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.

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

We will keep all stakeholders informed of any changes to our plans and communicate quickly with parents if an outbreak appears to be occurring within our school community.

September 2021