

COVID-19: Outbreak Management Plan

St Mary's CofE High School



ST MARY'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

Approved by: [Nicholas Simms] **Date:** [August 2021]

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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published 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:

- 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 students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
 - 10% of students 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

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. Nicholas Simms will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or emailing the Hertfordshire Covid Helpline

3. Testing

If recommended, we will request and promote an increase in the use of home testing by students and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- Testing will take place during the school day in term time (we may also use holiday dates to speed up return to education)
- The test centre will be in the gym using the equipment we previously used in March and September 2021

- › On-site testing will be for all students who consent (or whose parents/carers consent, depending on age)

4. Face coverings

If recommended, students, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- › 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 in communal areas

And/or:

- › Will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity

5. 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.

6. Other measures

Parents, carers, students and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. Once a decision has been made this will be communicated via email and on the school's website.

If recommended, we will limit:

- › Residential educational visits
- › Open days
- › Transition or taster days
- › Parents/carers/visitors coming into school
- › Live performances

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- › Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups

7. Attendance restrictions

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

7.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- › Vulnerable students
- › Children of critical workers

7.2 Education and support for students at home

All other students 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 students would receive in school, as outlined in our policy.

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

7.3 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.

7.4 Safeguarding

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

We will aim to have the trained DSL or one of the eight deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by email on DSP@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk

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

When vulnerable students are absent, we will:

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