



Woodlands Primary School Formby  
*Working together, achieving more*  
**Covid-19 Risk Assessment**  
Spring 2022

Written with reference to Schools COVID-19 operational guidance [February 2022]  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1057106/220224\\_Schools\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057106/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf)

Woodlands is no longer keeping children in consistent phase groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means, amongst other things, we are able to have all the junior children on the playground at the same time for break, we are able to have both infant & junior children eating their lunch in the junior hall together & we are able to hold whole school assemblies.

A contingency outbreak management plan is in place to cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. See section 6.5 of *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)* for further details on outbreak planning. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

The following prevention and response measures are in place:

From 27<sup>th</sup> January, face coverings no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas.

- **Adults and children are to wash / sanitise their hands on the following occasions:**
  - entry to school;
  - before/after break times;
  - before lunch;
  - when they change rooms;
  - before leaving school;
  - any time that they visit the toilet or cough/sneeze in to their hands.
- **Staff to ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach** [staff to remind children of this regularly].
- **Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach** [Mr Inskip, Site Manager, will remind cleaners to do this].
- **Staff need to ensure that classrooms are well-ventilated at all times:**
  - opening windows (in cooler weather windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air.
  - if necessary external opening doors may also be used (as long as they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).
  - CO2 monitors delivered to school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 [Mr Inskip, Site Manager, will monitor levels alongside staff – this will identify any areas where ventilation needs to be improved].
- **Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19** [see *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)*].

**School to continue to remind parents, staff, students, pupils and children of the signs of symptoms of COVID-19 and the importance of isolating and getting tested as soon as possible** [see *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)*].

**Staff should to perform LFD testing if they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.**

### **Visitors to school**

Supply teachers, peripatetic teachers and/or other temporary staff can move between schools. Likewise, specialists, therapists, clinicians and other support staff for pupils with SEND should provide interventions as usual. However, they must be made aware of school procedures and they must adhere to them: follow hand/respiratory hygiene.

Parent tours will be offered from the start of the autumn term; they will be required to & follow hand/respiratory hygiene.

Regular visitors, such as IT technicians, will be required to follow hand/respiratory hygiene measures in the school building.

Where contractors can attend outside of school hours they should. If that is not possible, they will be required to & follow hand/respiratory hygiene.

### **What to do if someone falls ill while at school**

If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell they must be sent home as soon as possible

- If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved to a room on their own (reception & KS1 Group Teaching Room / nursery & KS2 Green Screen Room), if possible depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.
- If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection ONLY if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). See box on below for further details on how to dispose of PPE.
- If a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained, then the following PPE should be worn by the supervising staff member:
  - Fluid-resistant surgical face mask
- If direct contact with the child is necessary, and there is significant risk of contact with bodily fluids, then the following PPE should be worn by the supervising staff member
  - Disposable gloves
  - Disposable plastic apron
  - Fluid-resistant surgical face mask
  - Eye protection (goggles, visor) should be worn ONLY if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye from, for example, coughing, spitting or vomiting
- The school should record and keep the details of the incident in case it is needed for future case or outbreak management [see suggested template Appendix 2 of *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)*]
- **There is no need to notify the Local Authority or the Health Protection Team of the incident**

### **Management of a single confirmed case**

See section 5 of *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)*

### **Management multiple confirmed cases and possible outbreaks\***

See section 6 of *PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings Version 8.0 (Version Adapted for Use by SMBC)*

Guidance about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases can be found in the contingency framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

\*Email received 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Update on Public Health COVID-19 Thresholds for Intervention**

From 17/01/2022, the following thresholds will apply in all educational settings except special schools, residential settings and settings that operate with 20 or less pupils, students and staff at any one time:

- **5 children, pupils, students or staff within a group** that is likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period including class groups, form/tutor groups, friendship groups, after-school clubs
- **10% of all children, pupils, students or staff across the setting** within a 10-day period
- If a pupil, student, child or staff member is **admitted to hospital** with COVID-19

We believe that this change will enable us to prioritise COVID-19 response effectively and will reduce unnecessary work for educational settings during a period of high community transmission. Please continue to contact Sefton Public Health via the 'Sefton Council Schools Email' at [ESenquiriesCOVID@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:ESenquiriesCOVID@sefton.gov.uk).

### **How do the changes to confirmatory PCR testing work? When will people still require a PCR?**

- From 11 January in England people who receive a positive lateral flow test will be required to self-isolate immediately but won't need to take a confirmatory PCR test.
- Some people will still need to take a PCR, even if they have a positive LFD – this includes: those who wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment, people who are taking part in research or surveillance programme, individuals who have received a positive Day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK and people who have been advised to by a clinician or medic to support access to treatment
- If people have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are – as before – strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test, however if, someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a confirmatory PCR test.

The press release is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results>

Kind regards  
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We are waiting for new guidance from Public Health – extract from Headteacher Update PM Davies Sefton Head of Education Excellence [1<sup>st</sup> March 2022]:  
*Many changes have taken place over covid restrictions and the main one to be aware of is that it is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate. Public Health is going to produce a letter for parents and carers regarding vaccinations.  
Further advise will be available for schools on a range of areas including parents' evenings and I will send it out as soon as I receive it.*



## Information for all education and childcare settings on implementing Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open. The measures set out below will support this.

### Attendance

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. As usual, schools are able to grant leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances.

### Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider.

We do not recommend that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms, unless their Director of Public Health advises them to temporarily do so in one of the circumstances described in the [Contingency Framework Guidance](#).

### Wrap around provision

Schools and early years settings should continue to offer their usual before and after-school activities, including wraparound childcare. These activities provide valuable childcare for working parents and carers and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

### Working from home

Office workers who can work from home should do so from Monday 13 December. Anyone who cannot work from home should continue to go into work – for example, to access equipment necessary for their role or where their role must be completed in-person. In-person working will be necessary in some cases to continue the effective and accessible delivery of some public services and private industries.

We expect all education and childcare settings, including further and higher education providers, to continue to provide face-to-face teaching, and staff should continue to attend their place of work if required in order to deliver this. Teaching and learning should not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance and we continue to expect higher education students (unless distance learners) to receive an element of face-to-face tuition. Therapists and wider children's service professionals should continue to be invited into education and childcare settings.

Education and childcare leaders are best placed to determine the workforce required to meet the needs of their children, pupils and students. Education and childcare leaders will need to consider whether it is possible for specific staff undertaking certain roles to work from home, while minimising disruption to face-to-face education and care.

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again.

Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend their setting and should follow the same [COVID-19 guidance](#) as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

## Testing

We strongly encourage all those involved in education and childcare settings to continue regular testing (LFD not PCR) and reporting their results, and to encourage pupils and students in year 7 and above to test and report their results.

Settings are strongly encouraged to ask parents, guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the setting.

## Isolation

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test.

The Government plans to introduce Daily Contact Testing as soon as possible as an alternative to self-isolation for contacts of positive Omicron cases who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

## January return

We continue to learn more about the impacts of the Omicron variant. To prepare for any possible changes in public health advice, all education and childcare settings should now revisit their existing outbreak plans to ensure they are well prepared for any future changes and ensure they are familiar with the [Contingency Framework Guidance](#).

Similarly, colleges and higher education providers should review their outbreak plans and ensure that contingency plans are up to date.

There are exams for vocational and technical qualifications timetabled for January. Students who are due to sit these exams will be prepared and it is right that they should be given every opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Exams and formal assessments will go ahead. Consequently, it is essential that students continue to prepare for these assessments.

We have recently asked all secondary schools to provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January. Testing in school helps to boost participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays.

For those in settings closing over Christmas, all staff and students should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. This means that they should test if they will be in a high-risk situation that day and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

For settings remaining open over the Christmas period (such as private nurseries, higher education or adult education providers), staff and students should continue to test at home twice per week over the holiday period.

Further and higher education students, and staff in all educational and childcare settings, should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return in January. Then they should continue to test in line with government guidelines and we recommend all staff and eligible students take up the offer of a vaccine.

## Inspection

Early years settings, schools and colleges will be using the final days of term to put in place these measures and consider contingency measures for January. In order to do that contingency planning, the Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector have agreed that early years settings, schools and colleges will not be inspected next week unless there are safeguarding concerns.

Ofsted has already confirmed that secondary schools will not be inspected, unless there are urgent concerns, during the first week of schools' return in January, in light of the onsite pupil testing that secondary schools will be undertaking that week. Ofsted inspections will continue to play an important role in providing independent assurance as schools and colleges continue to respond to the pandemic.

Ofsted visits for Children's Social Care, local authority SEND services and joint targeted area inspections will continue.