

Task / Activity:	RA linked to Government's 'Living with COVID' announcement	Ref:	
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This risk assessment should be produced in conjunction with the current government guidance below:

[February 2022 Updates](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057106/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf

Directorate:	Schools	Date of Assessment:	Reviewed 06.01.22
Business Unit:		Manager Responsible for Basic Activity:	Sharon Irwin
Service / Function:	Primary & Secondary Schools	Lead Risk Assessor for Basic Activity:	Sharon Irwin
Location:	Oxspring Primary School	Risk Assessment Team Members ((e.g. employees, supervisors, managers, safety reps etc)	All staff / pupils / parents / visitors

This Risk Assessment should also be read in conjunction with Oxspring Primary School's Outbreak Management Plan and previous COVID Risk Assessment.

In accordance with the DFE Schools COVID-19 operational guidance, the Risk Assessment outlines the measures to be in place in schools from February 2022, unless an outbreak should occur – (see Oxspring Outbreak Management Plan) As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now a need to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are deemed to be extremely low. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances as well as physical and mental health. Our school is aware of the legal responsibilities of providers in taking steps to reopen. Oxspring Primary School has a duty of care towards staff, students and visitors, including under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Equality Act 2010. Our school will continue to comply with those obligations.

Hazard	Risks	Control Measures	Actions Required	Person Responsible and Target Date
Schools Premise	Personal injury Fire Legionella Infection of coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a workplace inspection to ensure adequate working environment, equipment, fire safety and emergency arrangements are in place. Fire Risk Assessment to be reviewed and the Fire log-book is up to date. Legionella checks are to be up to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share control measures for school premises with caretaker and office staff Ascertain priorities linked to statutory testing schedules – contact relevant parties as appropriate for testing Ensure all tests / site checks are completed 	SI / HR Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical, gas and ventilation systems checks are up to date. • Cleaning regime - Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ND / RL premises records kept up to date • JC to complete end of term audit of supplies for cleaning resources • Review handwashing facilities / procedures with staff for larger number of children – action and share with staff • An appropriate cleaning schedule will be in place to ensure regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a focus on frequently touched surfaces. 	
Ventilation	Concentration of the virus in the air	<p>Ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Identify any poorly ventilated spaces and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas.</p> <p>Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.</p> <p>CO2 monitors have been provided to state-funded education settings, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.</p>	<p>When the school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. Opening external windows will be considered (weather and temperature dependent) alongside the opening of internal doors to assist with the throughput of air.</p> <p>CO2 monitors are placed in all classrooms, office and Hall. Checked by staff in all areas and ventilation improved accordingly.</p>	SI / HR ongoing
Infection Control Tracing, close contacts and isolation	Infection of coronavirus	<p><u>Tracing contacts and isolation</u> for contacts are now no longer required. Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.</p> <p>When someone has symptoms they should still stay away from school and they should take a test.</p>	<p>When someone has a positive test they should self-isolate, even though this is no longer a legal requirement, until either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a negative test result and they feel well (loss of sense of smell/taste or a cough may remain) • They have isolated for 10 days following the day of the positive test and they feel well (loss of sense of smell/taste or a cough may remain) 	SI / HR ongoing

	Hygiene and control measures	<p><u>Hygiene and control measures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. 	<p>We will continue to promote frequent and thorough hand cleaning, using soap and water or hand sanitizer, especially when entering the school/classroom environment.</p> <p>We will continue to promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.</p> <p>The use of PPE is no longer required beyond what staff would use for their normal work (nappy changing or first aid etc).</p> <p>PPE is still readily available. Staff can choose to wear masks or protective Perspex screening.</p>	
Attendance		School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.	<p>Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus).</p> <p>Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness)</p> <p>Reporting weekly to the DFE starting in week beginning 7th March 2022, rather than daily</p>	SI / HR ongoing
School Meals		School will continue to provide a free school meals for those pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and are learning at home during term time.	This can be done through a food hamper or a local supermarket voucher- whichever is preferred by the family in question. Where catering staff are affected by COVID cases we will work with the catering provider, ISS, to offer the best possible menu that we can and we will also attempt to provide a hot meal option to all pupils.	SI / HR ongoing
Bubbles	Supress the virus	We will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’) as standard. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and there is no longer the need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch. Pupils can mix at playtimes more widely now.	<p>Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.</p> <p>Bubbles will be reintroduced where we have concerns about case numbers in school or against medical/public health advice linked to new variants.</p>	SI / HR ongoing

		The Oxspring Outbreak Management Plan covers the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' will not be taken lightly and we would take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.	The Headteacher, leadership team and GB will review the need for bubbles or reduced social contacts on a daily basis based on the latest case numbers and patterns in school.	
Asymptomatic testing in schools	Supress the virus	This is no longer required.		
PCR Tests	Supress the virus	If you develop symptoms and do not have access to a LFT or the LFT is negative and your symptoms persist, you should book in and take a PCR test. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/	SI / HR ongoing
Face Coverings	Spread of infection (coronavirus)	Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school.	A director of public health might advise school that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). See Outbreak Management Plan	SI / HR ongoing
Remote Learning	Spread of infection	Where appropriate, you should support those who are self-isolating because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so. Schools subject to the remote education temporary continuity direction are required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19. You should work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education.	See Remote Learning Policy. The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and it will include daily core learning of reading, writing and maths activities that are suitable for the child. This will be provided to children who are well enough to learn from home but not allowed into school due to isolation.	SI / HR ongoing
Education Recovery	Catch up	DfE have announced a number of programmes and activities to support pupils to make up education missed as a result of the pandemic. Further information is available on education recovery support. Specifically for schools, the document includes further information on: • recovery premium • tutoring (including the National Tutoring Programme) •	See Catch Up Plan – plan to ensure children catch up on their missed education during the pandemic. This will be delivered by all teachers with additional support from the school's addition provision plans- for example addition reading or maths boosting.	SI / HR ongoing

		teacher training opportunities • curriculum resources • curriculum planning • specialist settings • wider continuous professional development resources, including to support teacher wellbeing and subject-specific teaching		
Pupil wellbeing and support	Emotional and mental health	Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. You can access useful links and sources of support on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools.	We are aware that some children will be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to their own experiences of COVID, such as anxiety, stress, low mood, bereavement and we have robust measures in place to allow them access to the support that they need.	SI / HR ongoing
Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils	Increased susceptibility of infection	All CEV children should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.	All pupils and staff in this category will be risk assessed against developing new variants and their personal medical circumstances.	SI / HR ongoing
School Workforce	Transmission of the virus	Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus.	Leaders will regularly review the guidance relating to CEV adults in school and ensure that leaders are making all adjustments required to support these staff. The Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we would manage those staff members if an outbreak occurred.	SI / HR ongoing
Educational visits and journeys	Transmission of infection	Full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits will be in place and any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, will be included as part of any risk assessments.	Pupils can now mix to attend school visits and reward/sporting events. When booking a school visit staff should always enquire about the facilities procedures for refunds, rescheduling and cancellation, etc	SI / HR Ongoing
Stepping Measures Up and Down	Outbreak of Covid-19	You should have contingency plans outlining how you would operate if you need to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Information on what circumstances might lead you to consider taking additional action, and the steps you should work through, can be found in the contingency framework. Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission.	The Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we would operate if there was an outbreak in a school or in the locality. This plan will be reviewed regularly. Things like class bubbles, playtimes and assemblies will be reviewed in-line with cases. Indoor events for class mixing and parents visiting will be limited significantly as these present the greatest risk of an outbreak.	SI / HR Ongoing
New variants of COVID- how to deal with infection control	Outbreak of Covid-19 / infection control	Schools will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a	School will keep families up to date with regular communication about any changes to guidance.	SI / HR ongoing

	<p>setting (see Stepping measures up and down section for more information) or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures. These will be introduced where required and risk assessed on a case-by-case basis. • Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Schools must ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future • School to have sufficient hand washing or hand sanitiser 'stations' available so that all pupils and staff can clean their hands regularly.</p>	<p>Further actions for educational settings may be advised by a local Incident Management Team (IMT) investigating a suspected or confirmed case of new variants of COVID-19</p>	
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Manager's Assessment Acceptance Statement	
I accept the details of the assessment and will ensure that the risk control measures identified, any risk control actions identified and monitoring requirements are acted upon within the given time scales.	
Manager's Signature	S. Irwin
Date	February 2022
Date of planned review (not to exceed 12 months)	February 2023
Date of planned full re-assessment (not to exceed 24 months)	February 2024