



## INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES FOR SCHOOL TO IMPLEMENT WHEN OUTBREAK THRESHOLD IS REACHED

### Initial outbreak control measures and Enhanced outbreak control measures

#### INITIAL OUTBREAK CONTROL MEASURES

Timing to implement: - These measures should be considered in all settings **at the time of declaring an outbreak** as per [DfE threshold](#)

Please familiarise yourself with the following updates:

1. **Anyone who is symptomatic with COVID symptoms** should **not** attend school and arrange a PCR test – [click link for more information](#)
2. Testing and self-isolation guidance for people who are contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases varies depending on the **age** and **vaccination status** - Guidance related to this has been recently updated - [click this link for more information](#)
3. Anyone with a positive LFD test should **not** attend school. From 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022, confirmatory PCR testing is temporarily suspended for most individuals - [click this link for more information on the update](#) and [this link for the current advice on what to do following a positive test result](#)

Please carry out the following actions as part of initial outbreak control measures:

1. Provide the “**inform and advise**” information to identified groups
2. Communicate with staff and parents of children on importance of regular asymptomatic testing ([operational guidance for schools](#))
3. Consider **moving activities outdoors** (where practically possible) i.e. exercise, assemblies and classes<sup>1</sup>
4. Review if **indoor ventilation** in your setting can be improved i.e. singing, shouting or exercise (without significantly impacting thermal comfort)
5. Continue to implement **enhanced cleaning**, focusing on touch points – All shared equipment should be cleaned after use.
6. Review and reinforced hygiene measures<sup>2</sup>
7. Please continue to promote vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff.

In addition to the above, additional measures include:

8. Promotion of social distancing and reduce crowding (e.g. reduce the number of children gathering, such as assemblies, and minimise pinch points during the school day). *To implement when there is evidence of significant transmission within the setting and between groups*
9. Consider temporary reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ to reduce mixing between groups in affected areas. *This measure is most likely to be effective when there is substantial mixing between classes.*
10. Reduce the mixing of staff e.g. by holding meetings remotely. To implement when there is evidence/high risk of transmission between staff and/or low vaccination rates amongst staff
11. Please risk assess (affected classes/year groups) for all residential education visits, open days, transition/taster days, parental attendance, live performances for the duration of baseline and additional measures – and postpone or cancel as appropriate. Please familiarise yourself with specific sections of the guidance in [contingency framework](#) i.e. “Other measures” and “Educational visits”

<sup>1</sup> As standard when feasible (e.g. weather) with priority given to activities where: large groups gather, there is contact between those who would not usually mix or where singing, shouting or exercise may be taking place

<sup>2</sup> As standard with support for those where maintaining hygiene standards may be difficult (for example younger cohorts)



Please also ensure that your implementation of initial measures incorporates risk assessment to identify any **safeguarding issues**.

Please continue to link with your local authority with any queries – particularly if there is a hospitalisation or death, or if case numbers are escalating fast in different year groups/classes even after two weeks of implementation of these measures.

**ENHANCED OUTBREAK CONTROL MEASURES** - To be considered in addition to initial measures.

Appropriate time to implement enhanced outbreak control measures: - **If there is evidence of ongoing transmission despite two weeks of initial outbreak control measures**

**Measures**

**Further reduce mixing**

Introduce more stringent measures to reduce mixing, including:

- Re-introduction of bubbles, in affected areas, if not already in place
- Moving essential co-curricular activities online<sup>3</sup>
- Suspend/cancel all other co-curricular activities, outings, open days and in-person staff meetings across the setting

**Testing**

- Continue to encourage pupils and students to regularly test and report their results  
[Schools and colleges can access a new [template form](#) for pupils, students and staff to report test results. Primary schools can access a new [template form](#) for staff to report their results
- Consider asking primary school pupils to test twice weekly at parents' discretion
- Consider wider, more frequent LFD testing of a cohort of secondary school children for a minimum of 5 days and increasing to 7 days to ensure final test is taken on a school day
- Consider onsite testing options e.g. asking secondary school children to undertake one test per week at school
- Discuss alternative testing options with your local authority e.g. onsite testing with mobile testing unit may be appropriate in special circumstances

**Vaccination**

- Encourage staff to get vaccinated and/or boosters when eligible
- Encourage students 12 years and above to get vaccinated

**Operational pressures**

- If you have issues with staff absence leading to operational pressures or are considering a move to remote learning, then **please contact and inform your local authority public health and education teams**
- **If remote learning is implemented, a safeguarding risk assessment should be undertaken for vulnerable children.**

<sup>3</sup> Risk assessment to identify any safeguarding issues