

Maghull High School - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak Management Plan: Operational Guidance – December 2021 Update

This plan contains advice on confirmed cases, contacts, contact tracing and other relevant information and links to resources. Please read through this document and be aware that national guidelines are subject to change on an ongoing basis - always check for the most up to date guidance and advice.

Maghull High School will ensure all members of staff; parents and carers; and visitors are familiar with infection control measures, testing and isolation guidance and are supported to adhere to these guidelines.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The primary objective in outbreak management is to protect public health by identifying the source and implementing control measures to prevent further spread or recurrence of the infection.
- 1.2 This document provides operational guidance for the management of outbreaks of COVID-19.
- 1.3 The guidance aims to ensure an effective and coordinated approach is taken to outbreak management, from initial detection to formal closure and review, and includes a set of standards for outbreak response.
- 1.4 This document is intended to provide a framework for our local or national response to outbreaks of COVID-19 and directs to detailed guidance and information where appropriate please refer to:

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

- 1.5 Every case is different and this guidance should be used alongside expert advice in response to individual circumstances.

2. Preparation and prevention

- 2.1 Prevention of cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 remains the priority. Guidance for educational settings on protective measures they can take during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found [here](#). Specific guidance for educational settings on supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can be found [here](#). Guidance for holiday, after school clubs and other out of school settings is [here](#). Guidance on shielding and protecting children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can be found [here](#).
- 2.2 Internal Infection control measures:
 - Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
 - Manage and report confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community as appropriate
 - Contain any outbreak by following Sefton Public Health Team advice
 - Regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) for staff and pupils on school site
 - Home LFT kits available to staff and pupils as needed
 - Face coverings used more widely
 - Resources widely available to support sanitation
 - Clear signage supporting “hands, face, space” and social distancing

- One way circulation systems
 - Zoned seating in communal areas
 - Substantially increased level of cleaning during hours of operation
 - Reduction of visitors on site, visitors to test before coming on to site
 - Suspension of Educational Visits and visiting speakers
 - Carefully managed provision of externally sourced services e.g. SEND support services
- 2.3 In the event of a major outbreak, National Government may reintroduce shielding in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to individuals on the Shielded Patient List and/or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- 2.4 As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, local authorities, DsPH and HPT's may advise the school to limit attendance. All vulnerable pupils, children of critical workers, pupils in years 10,11,12 and 13 should still attend. Priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.
- 2.5 The school will aim to operate extended school day activities as normal. However if attendance restrictions are needed as a last resort, the academic element of the programme may need to be offered remotely.
- 2.6 Free school meals will continue to be provided for pupils who are in school and vouchers will be provided for eligible pupils who are not attending because they:
- are self-isolating
 - have had symptoms or a positive test themselves
- 2.7 High quality remote education provided for all pupils not attending school.

3. Definitions

3.1 Possible case of COVID-19:

- Any child, young person or staff member with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (high temperature over 37.8 degrees Celsius, new continuous cough, and/or loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste).
- Anyone who displays these symptoms must be asked to [self-isolate](#) and [testing](#) should be arranged.

3.2 Confirmed case of COVID-19:

- Any child, young person or staff member with laboratory confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

3.3 Outbreak of COVID-19:

- Thresholds for action - 5+ students/staff or 10% students/staff testing positive within a 10 day period who have mixed closely – form group, subject class, friendship group, sports team, after school group activity
- Inform Public Health England if anyone is hospitalised due to Covid-19
- Staff and students encouraged to continue LFD testing twice weekly at home until further notice

3.4 Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

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 be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

The Government plans to introduce daily contact testing as soon as possible as an alternative to self-isolation for contacts who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

Further actions for educational settings may be advised by a local Incident Management Team (IMT) investigating a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school and have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, should continue to attend school as normal.

If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a 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.

Anyone who has been identified as a contact, will need to self-isolate for 10 days from last contact with the case, regardless of whether they have been tested or not, and that if they develop symptoms during that time they will need to get a test, and then self-isolate for a full 10 days from their symptom onset if positive.

3.5 Testing definitions

PCR tests (polymerase chain reaction): PCR tests are good at finding very small amounts of the virus, especially early in infection, so these are used primarily in people who have symptoms. The swabs are sent to a lab and it will take longer to get your result. Most people get their result the next day, but it may take up to 3 days.

Lateral Flow Testing or Device (LFT/LFD): These are rapid tests (results in 15-30 minutes) used for asymptomatic people. If an LFT has a positive result, the individual and their household should self-isolate and seek a confirmatory PCR

Some people have Covid-19 but do not display any symptoms. Although they remain well, they can still transmit the virus to others. Therefore asymptomatic testing is really key in helping to reduce transmission for COVID-19 in the community and in school.

Additional 'outbreak testing' will be considered in the event of increased cases within the school.

4. Priority actions and when to notify Sefton Public Health

4.1 Schools are expected to follow [guidance](#) on reporting to the Department for Education (DfE) via the [DfE online form](#) and report weekly any positive cases to the Local Authority.

4.2. Initial action by the school

The school will be able to manage many of the situations that arise with support from Sefton Public Health Department. In general, the following steps will be taken to manage a confirmed case of coronavirus in school:

1. Isolate case: Ensure the case has been tested and is isolating as appropriate
2. Escalate as appropriate: Inform the appropriate team (see table below)
3. Share information: provide information to parents and staff

Scenario	Case(s)	Contact Isolation	Escalation	Information
Suspected case	Isolate and seek confirmatory PCR test	None	None	Inform and advise
Single confirmed case	Isolate (10 days)	None (unless instructed by NHS Test and Trace)	Sefton Public Health Team	Inform and advise
Thresholds for action reached	Isolate and seek confirmatory PCR test	None (unless instructed by NHS Test and Trace)	Sefton Public Health Team	Inform and advise through 'warn and inform' letter provided by Sefton PH