



The Grove Primary School

The Grove
Oakfield Lane

Consett

County Durham DH8 8AP

Head Teacher: Bernadette Atkinson



Email: thegrove@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.grove.durham.sch.uk

Telephone: 01207 502938

School Outbreak Plan Template- January 2022

1. Purpose

The outbreak plan template for schools aims to guide schools in the actions which they need plan for to respond to either a local outbreak of COVID-19 (including variants of concern) or an outbreak in their setting.

This template has been revised in accordance with the most recent version of the national contingency framework for education and childcare settings and should be read alongside this national document.

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (updated 14th December 2021)

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

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings and sets out that local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks and that they play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings. The measures described in the contingency framework are reflected in this template.

2. Context

Schools COVID-19 operational guidance (updated 14th December 2021)

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

The preventative measures which schools need to maintain are outlined and covered in this guidance. Schools require a current risk assessment and proportionate control measures including: good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, environmental cleaning, good ventilation, testing in accordance with current guidance and the management of cases and contacts in line with current public health advice.

In addition, if there is an outbreak of coronavirus in school then some additional measures which may be advised on a temporary basis in an outbreak situation. These measures are reflected in this template.

3. Thresholds for Action

National guidance recommends that for most settings it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned and appendix 1 provides details of the process for contacting Durham County Council.

Mainstream primary and secondary schools:

5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely*, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period





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Or

10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely* test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Or

If any case of COVID-19 in school has resulted in that person being hospitalised

*in the same cohort, for example class/year group/activity group/friendship group/home to school transport

4. Outbreak definition

A standard outbreak definition is two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases associated with the setting with an onset of illness in the last 14 days and:

- where the cases are likely to have been exposed to each other using the close contact definition (within 2m for more than 15minutes, within 1m for 1minute, within 1m and face to face for any amount of time, shared a small vehicle for any amount of time)

Or

- where there is no sustained community transmission

5. Outbreak assessment

An assessment of an outbreak is undertaken, in most instances when the threshold for action is reached, by working with public health who will advise on public health actions and this assessment is made taking into account the current position regarding COVID-19 in the population.

6. Outbreak assessment in periods of exceptional demand

Periods of exceptional demand schools will be notified by the Head of Education and the DPH.

Special schools will continue to report cases as usual and will be directly supported by the public health team.

Mainstream schools where there are any cases associated with the setting who are hospitalised will continue to report cases as usual and will be directly supported by the public health team.

Mainstream schools without cases associated with the setting who are hospitalised will be requested to assess their outbreak using the checklist provided at appendix 2





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The revised reporting process for mainstream schools in periods of exceptional demand is provided in appendix 3.

7. Outbreak Management Plan Template

All education and childcare settings should have outbreak management plans outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described below were recommended for their setting or area.

This includes how they would ensure every child, pupil or student receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

Public Health Actions to be included:

1) Prevention measures:

Review the current COVID-19 risk assessment and ensure that all prevention measures are fully implemented.

Review individual risk assessments for staff and pupils.

2) Bubbles

Currently, EYFS, Year 1,2 and 3 and Year 4,5 and 6 are separated for play and lunch times. If there is an outbreak, children will return to systems that were in place during the first lockdown ie movement around school, lunch arrangements and staggering for collection.

3) Face coverings

Face coverings may need to be reintroduced for staff and students (secondary age pupils/schools and colleges), and as previously there will be reasonable exemptions for their use.

This may include face coverings in communal areas (for pupils, students and staff) and/or classrooms (for both pupils, students and staff).

Please see page 18 on our risk assessment for information on Face Coverings

4) Testing:

Increased testing may be advised this may include:

Increased use of home testing by staff and pupils and students.

In accordance with the testing guidance in the current risk assessment schools may be advised to:

Request more frequent use of home LFD testing by some staff, pupils and students for a specified period, for example 7days.

Please see P13 and P14 in our current risk assessment.





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5) **Shielding**

People previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again.

Individuals previously identified as CEV are advised to continue to follow the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Individuals should consider advice from their health professional on whether additional precautions are right for them.

6) **Other activities**

A range of activities may be paused or restricted during an outbreak including: educational visits, residential educational visits, open days, transition days, parental attendance, live performances and use of the school premises by other organisations.

7) **Contact tracing**

Contact tracing may be reinstated and in this situation DCC will work with schools to ascertain the contacts of cases during their infectious period and will provide a template letter for schools to share with identified contacts advising the contact to seek a PCR test and where not exempt, to self-isolate.

For primary school age pupils, the whole class would usually be considered contacts of a case.

8) **Attendance restrictions**

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

Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers Page

Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils 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 pupils would receive in school.

You can see our Remote Learning Guidance by clicking the link

<https://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2021/01/Remote-Learning-Guidelines.pdf>





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9) Other areas which you may wish to include are:

Safeguarding

We will continue to update our Safeguarding Policy in line with any additional updates and guidance from the Local Authority.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Bernadette Atkinson. The Deputy DSLs within school are Rachel Crowe, Fiona Gargett, Sally Hastings and Louise Gibson (and Carly Grundy currently on Maternity Leave). There will continue to be at least one DSL/Deputy DSL on site. They can be contacted via 01207 502938 or enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk

10) Meals

The school will continue to provide lunch parcels for those pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

These can be collected by a family member who is not isolating or they can be delivered to the house by a member of staff.

11) Resources to support Remote Learning (children testing positive)

Families that need to access resources such as: Ipads, stationery, reading resources etc can do so by contacting the school office on 01207 502938 enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk or via Tapestry

12) Contingency plans for staff and pupil absence

Risk assessments and preventative measures will be used to ensure that contingency plans are in place to support staff and pupil absence. Depending on the threshold for action as identified in 3) of this document will form the basis of the contingency plan.

