

COVID CONTINGENCY FRAMEWORK - September 2021

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- As part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

The overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.

The [Operational Guidance](#) sets out the measures that all education settings should have in place to manage transmission of COVID-19 day to day. For most settings it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening in the setting. The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned. For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

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

Where these thresholds are reached, public health advice may require control measures such as the ones below to be swiftly implemented:

Type of Control Measure	Necessary Immediate Actions	Roles and Responsibilities	Communication to pupils, parents and staff	How educational continuity will be achieved
Face coverings might be re-introduced temporarily in the local area.	<p>Clear guidance to staff that face coverings will be required in communal areas and/or classrooms.</p> <p>Clear guidance to parents/carers that face coverings will be required during drop off and collection.</p>	SB/RP	Email and communication with staff and parents/carers.	Face-to face lessons should continue as normal.

<p>Shielding (shielding can only be re-introduced by national government)</p>	<p>All affected staff and pupils to be identified and informed that they should work remotely in line with national guidance.</p>	<p>SB/RP</p>	<p>Discussions with affected staff. Phone calls to parents/carers of pupils advised to shield.</p>	<p>High quality Remote Learning for all affected shielding pupils. Shielding staff may be given alternative tasks to complete, depending upon their role in school.</p>
<p>School may be advised to limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential educational visits • Open days • Transition days • Parental attendance in settings • Live performances in settings 	<p>SLT to review advice received from external health professionals and appropriate decisions taken.</p>	<p>SB/RP</p>	<p>Emails to staff and parents/carers. Teachers relay messages to pupils.</p>	<p>Activities postponed rather than cancelled wherever possible. On-line Open Events where needed.</p>
<p>Attendance restrictions (should only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort)</p>	<p>SLT to review advice received from external health professionals and appropriate decisions taken.</p>	<p>SB/RP</p>	<p>Emails to staff and parents/carers. Teachers relay messages to pupils.</p>	<p>In all circumstances, priority will continue to be given to vulnerable children and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.</p> <p>Where measures include attendance restrictions, DfE may advise on any groups which should be prioritised.</p>

<p>Remote Education</p>	<p>SLT to review advice received from external health professionals and appropriate decisions taken.</p>	<p>SB/RP</p>	<p>Emails to staff and parents/carers. Teachers relay messages to pupils.</p>	<p>High-quality Remote Learning will be provided for all pupils and students if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home. • Attendance at school has been temporarily restricted. <p>On-site provision will be retained for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.</p>
<p>Safeguarding and designated safeguarding leads.</p>	<p>Established safeguarding protocols from previous lockdowns swiftly re-introduced.</p>	<p>SB/RP</p>	<p>Emails to staff and Teams briefing for all staff if required.</p>	<p>If attendance restrictions are needed, all local safeguarding partners will be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely. School will continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies, including:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping Children Safe in Education • Working Together to Safeguard Children • Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
Educational visits.	SLT to review advice received from external health professionals and appropriate decisions taken.	SB/RP	Emails to staff and parents/carers. Teachers relay messages to pupils.	Any attendance restrictions will be reflected in the visit risk assessment and school leaders will consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only students who are attending the setting should go on an educational visit.