



The Park Federation Academy Trust

Covid Outbreak Management Plan

2021

Version History

Version	Date	Status and Purpose	Changes overview
1	July 2021	Draft for comment	-
2	30/07/2021	JEA edited version	Safeguarding details, FSM voucher update and Remote policy information
3	16/12/2021	JEA edited version	Testing and face coverings

Approval History

Chief Executive Officer and Federation Principal approved this policy on behalf of the Board of Directors: Dr. Martin Young.
Approved on July 2021
Next review: July 2022

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1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance from step 4](#), provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following 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 the extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Collaboration

Multi-agency collaboration and communication is important in ensuring consistency in approach across England wherever issues occur, so that no group of children, pupils or students is unfairly disadvantaged.

Local authorities, DsPH and DfE's regional schools commissioners (RSCs) will maintain close working relationships through their regional partnership teams (RPTs). These teams are made up of:

- UKHSA regional directors
- contain regional convenors
- UKHSA regional leads

Where decisions about measures in education and childcare settings are made at a national level, DfE will work with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the UKHSA, the Chief Medical Officer, and other government departments, as well as relevant local authorities and DsPH. The government will review the available evidence and take into account the judgement of public health professionals.

Roles and responsibilities:

Local authorities, DsPH and HPTs are responsible for managing localised outbreaks. They play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings.

Local authorities, DsPH and HPTs will work with their regional partnership teams (RPTs) to escalate issues from the local level into the central local action committee command structure. RPTs support local areas in managing outbreaks and provide advice and insights from across the country to the Chief Medical Officer and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to inform decision making.

Through the local action committee command structure, ministers consider and take decisions on measures on an area-by-area basis in light of all available evidence, public health advice and the local and national context.

In rare circumstances, it may be necessary to escalate issues to ministers through other central government committees (for example incident management teams), but this should be by exception only.

3. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

4. Testing

Our contingency plan reflect the possibility of increased use of lateral flow device (LFD) testing by staff.

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. For more detail on daily testing, all sectors should see further information in the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#). Details are also available in specific sector guidance.

5. Face coverings

There may be the possibility that it may be advised that face coverings should temporarily be worn in school.

Children of primary school age and early years children should not be advised to wear face coverings. Face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas.

Face coverings in classrooms may temporarily be advised by DsPH:

- for an individual setting as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management
- for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package, or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and DsPH decide it is appropriate

In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission.

6. Other measures

If recommended, we will limit:

- residential educational visits
- open days
- transition or taster days
- parental attendance in settings
- live performances in settings

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

Actions to consider once a threshold is reached

At the point of reaching a threshold, we will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place.

We will also consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment
- We will seek additional public health advice if we are concerned about transmission in the setting, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.

A director of public health or an HPT may give the school advice reflecting the local situation. In areas where rates are high, this may include advice that local circumstances mean that the thresholds for extra action can be higher than set out in this document. They might advise the school to take some of the other measures described in this document.

7. Attendance restrictions

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

7.1 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

7.2 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, as outlined in our Remote learning policy – available on our school website.

The school will continue to provide meal vouchers (using Wonde app) for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

7.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

7.4 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL – Rebecca Pinkney (or deputies) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by email [vpy12jea@theparkfederation.org].

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.