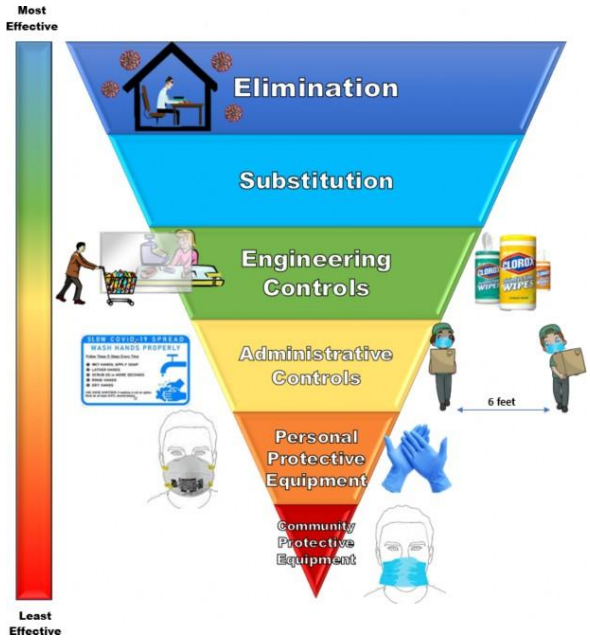
Covid-19 Updated Risk Assessment – Eastfield Primary School (1st September 2021, Reviewed January 2022, reviewed February / March 2022)

Our Risk Assessment reflects the lifting / easing of restrictions in schools. However, we will remain cautious and some guidance will remain, as this is not yet a complete return to normal.

It is recognised that we may need to either step up or step down our risk control measures as we move through the third wave of the pandemic, and this risk assessment identifies the control measures that we have in place as of 1st September 2021.

Our control measures are based on current government guidance:

- School coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance (last updated 19 July)
- Annex A: health and safety risk assessment
- Coronavirus: advice for pregnant employees
- Coronavirus: asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges
- Rapid asymptomatic testing in specialist schools
- Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care



We will use the following approach in order to reduce the risks in our school:

1. **Elimination:** if an activity isn't considered essential and has risks attached, stop it
2. **Substitution:** replace the activity with one that reduces the risk. Take care not to substitute the activity with one that'll introduce new hazards
3. **Engineering controls:** introduce measures that help control or mitigate risk
4. **Administrative controls:** identify and implement the procedures to improve safety (for example, by having markings on the floor or signage around school)
5. Having gone through this process, **use PPE where the guidance advises it is required**.

We will continue to follow these protective measures:

- Make sure people who are required to self-isolate do not attend school.
- Advise everyone to clean their hands thoroughly and frequently ensuring handwashing facilities have running water, soap and paper towels or hand dryers.
- Make sure people practise good respiratory hygiene and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Maintain enhanced cleaning and have in place appropriate cleaning procedures and products.
- Ensure adequate ventilation in occupied spaces.
- Wear face coverings in all communal areas
- Limit visitors on site
- Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Manage confirmed coronavirus cases.
- Contain any outbreak by following advice from the local health protection team.
- Make sure individuals have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), for example if they need to be in close contact
- with a pupil who develops symptoms.
- Promote and engage with asymptomatic testing.
- Hold regular conversations with staff, particularly those who are pregnant or CEV Employers to explain the measures they have in place to keep them safe at work. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance on protecting vulnerable workers, including advice for employers and employees on how to talk about reducing risks in the workplace.

Title: Covid-19 Risk Assessment – September 2021

Hazards	Who might be harmed	Controls Required	Risk Rating L/M/H	Additional Controls	Action By who	Action by when	Done
Contact with coronavirus when getting to and from school	Pupils Staff Parents / carers / visitors	**<u>Public Transport</u>** Anyone who needs to take public transport will be referred to government guidance.	L	Few children arrive to school via public transport and 3x school gates are open between 8:45-8:55am each morning Very few staff arrive to school via public transport and face coverings are advised for these staff	Children and parents Staff	3/9/21 3/9/21	
		<u>School drops offs</u> • Wherever possible, only one parent/carer should attend • Measures in place to prevent parents / carers gathering at entrance gates / doors. • Children to use hand sanitiser gel on entry to school. • Staff may choose to wear protective visors / masks when on the gate at drop off time.	L	3 gates are in operation A Colliery Rd C Eastfield Grove D Griffin Street Parents and children will be asked to queue on entry – Gate B has been removed so parents can now queue down the whole of Colliery Road Senior Staff will be on Gate ACD – parents will not be allowed on site at morning drop off Children will be given hand sanitizer on their arrival at the school gates and will also wash hands in the classroom on arrival	Parents and senior staff Teachers	3/9/21	
		<u>Car Sharing</u> Car sharing will be avoided if possible but if it's not possible then it will be discussed with the staff member to ensure that they are taking the following precautions: • Travel with windows open	L	Staff to be informed on INSET	All staff	2/9/21	

		• Wear face coverings for the entire journey • The owner of the car is responsible for cleaning it and wiping hand touch points down before bringing it back into use as their own personal vehicle for transporting family members. **<u>School collection</u>** • Wherever possible, only one parent/carer should attend • Measures in place to prevent parents / carers gathering at entrance gates / doors. • Staff may choose to wear protective visors / masks when opening the door and dismissing children at collection time.		3 gates are in operation A Colliery Rd C Eastfield Grove D Griffin Street Parents will be invited onto the school site at 3:05pm. They will be directed to designated chalkboards with class numbers listed and will line up by the assigned cones. Children will be kept in school and dismissed 1 person at a time to the parents lined up in order. Reception children will be dismissed onto the car park at an early time to avoid congestion until Oct ½ term	Parents Teachers and children EYFS children	3/9/21 Sept - Oct	
Spread of Covid-19 through person to person contact	Staff Pupils Cleaners Contractors Visitors to your premises Vulnerable groups – Elderly, Pregnant workers,	**<u>Limiting contact with someone potentially suffering from coronavirus</u>** • Everyone will be asked not to come into school if they need to self-isolate under current government guidance. Regular reminders will be given about this. • School sends out regular clear messages that children, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers are not to visit the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). • Parents asked to keep unwell children at home, regardless of symptoms to prevent the spread of illness to other children and staff.		Parents will not be allowed on the premises / school grounds during drop off, only collection Visitors will be limited – only 1 additional person will be allowed to work in the School Business Manager's office and we will ask them to have negative LFT on the day they are in school A new visitor protocol will be drawn up by the Inclusion / safeguarding team for visit	Parents Visitors School Business Manager Inclusion team	3/9/21 3/9/21 2/9/21	

	those with existing underlying health conditions Anyone else who physically comes in contact with you in relation to your operations	• If pupils or staff have travelled abroad, they will be asked to follow the current government guidance. • Anyone self-isolating with symptoms will be advised to do so in line with current government guidance, and to access testing and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. – updated February 2022 • Face coverings to be worn in communal areas (October ½ term) – this will become optional Feb/ March 2022 **Barriers / screens in the main office** • There is a glass partition in the reception / office which can be used by reception staff when dealing with parents/visitors/contractors **Promotion of good personal hygiene** • Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place. Sinks or portable sinks are available in every class. Hand sanitiser is also present in every classroom.		requests from Social care, strengthening families, inclusion team, HI team, school nurses etc. FLO and Office staff to monitor attendance and contact parents where child is absent. In the event of illness, staff to enquire the nature of the illness and advise parents accordingly if isolation or testing is required. Where possible, the school office will remain closed and the main school gates will be open between 10-2:30pm (in order to prevent unnecessary visits / crowding at drop off / collection) OUTSIDE of these times, parents will need to phone the office to be let into the school grounds / office – gates to be left open Feb 2022 Senior staff will be on the main gate until 8:55am and then the Family Liaison and Safeguarding officer and office assistant will monitor this gate for latecomers Hand sanitiser will be used on the school gates every morning by senior staff – children who cannot have hand sanitiser will	Office staff Senior staff FLO and office assistant Senior staff	3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21	

		• Hand sanitiser is placed at entrances and exits to the school and in any occupied rooms. • Posters are displayed throughout the school reminding pupils, staff and visitors to wash their hands, e.g. before entering and leaving the school. (Additional PHE posters accessible here). • Stringent hand washing taking place. (in accordance with this guidance). • Pupils are supervised by staff when washing their hands to ensure it is done correctly and for at least 20 seconds, where necessary. • Class teachers to teach children hand washing techniques. • Children to wash hands before and after eating a snack and before and after eating dinner. • Hand sanitisers meeting a minimum of 70% alcohol content sited in any area where washing facilities not readily available (***Note; hand gel is no substitute for thorough and effective handwashing***) • Employees and pupils reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues – Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it and wash hands and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. • Tissues for each class and available throughout school, ensuring adequate stock levels for each class / office from the start of each day and are replenished as needed. • Appropriate receptacles for disposal of tissues which are emptied throughout the day. • Pupils discouraged from sharing cutlery, cups or food. • Parents informed of hygiene expectations and to advise its discussed with their children. • Parents informed that children are to wash their hands for 20 seconds before coming to school and when they get home.		wash their hands on entry to the classroom			

		Ventilation • Areas, particularly occupied spaces, are kept well ventilated using natural ventilation where possible. • Poorly ventilated work areas to be identified and steps taken to improve fresh air flow CO_2 monitors will be provided to all state-funded education settings from September, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved. Further information will be issued as monitors are rolled out. • Corridor fire doors to be closed – March 2022 **Social Distancing** Wherever possible, staff should continue to distance (2 metres) from other members of staff wherever possible particularly in staffrooms, kitchens, classrooms and shared resource rooms. **Dealing with a suspected case (staff and / or pupil)** • Staff are informed of the symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, e.g. a cough, difficulty in breathing and high temperature, and are kept up-to-date with national guidance about the signs, symptoms and transmission of coronavirus. • If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in school they will be		Corridor windows to be opened by the site manager on arrival at school Windows to be opened before school and kept open all day. Classroom doors to be opened wherever possible When the temperature drops then alternate windows should be opened and doors closed. At break times, when children are outside of the classroom then all windows and doors can be opened to 'change the air' in the classroom and to ventilate the space. The Government will be supplying the school with CO2 monitors and we will identify poor areas of ventilation and act accordingly School will maintain 2 staffrooms to facilitate social distancing Lunch times will also be staggered – so that teachers / TAs do not have go at the same time	Site Manager Site Manager Class teachers Government Teachers / TAs All staff VRo, DSt	2/9/21 2/9/21 Autumn term 3/9/21 3/9/21	

		isolated (children supervised at all times) and kept in an area where (if possible) they can be at least two metres away from others and sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance. • In the case of a pupil who needs to be supervised before being picked up a window will be opened in the room to allow for fresh air ventilation and staff will wear a fluid-resistant surgical mask only if a distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained. If contact is necessary, supervising staff will also wear disposable gloves and disposable apron. If there's a risk of splashing to the eyes, such as from coughing, spitting or vomiting, supervising staff will also wear eye protection. Supervising staff will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after the pupil has been picked up. • If unwell pupils and staff are waiting to go home, they are instructed to use different toilets to the rest of the school to minimise the spread of any potential infection. • Areas used by unwell staff and pupils who need to go home are appropriately cleaned once vacated and PPE will be disposed of properly, following decontamination guidance. • If a member of staff becomes symptomatic their line manager maintains regular remote contact with them during this time. In exceptional circumstances, if parents/carers cannot collect their child and they agree it is age-appropriate and safe to do so, the pupil can walk, cycle or scoot home. **Controlling other users of building (visitors / contractors)** • The school will contact every user and inform them of usage expectations:		Children with symptoms are to be brought to the medical room and VRo / DSt notified – a sign is to be placed on the medical room door so that no-one enters Medical room to be cleaned once the child has been collected. Any child needing significant 1st aid (that cannot be completed in the classroom / playground) must sit on the blue chairs if the medical room is in use and DC / DSt notified The disabled toilet is a designated quarantine toilet Where staff develop symptoms or feel generally unwell they must contact their line manager to discuss this before arriving at work. Staff to access lateral flow testing at least twice a week during the term and report the results to covidtest@eastfieldpri.co.uk Staff with suspected symptoms or a confirmed case must not attend school and must follow national isolation guidance. –	El Cleaner All staff 1st aiders DC / DSt Staff	3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21	

		• Compulsory handwashing / use of gel before entering school. • Wearing of a face covering **<u>Indoor and outdoor performances with an audience</u>** We will consult the guidance on performing arts when planning indoor and outdoor performances. Assemblies to be reintroduced after Feb ½ term **<u>Sports</u>** We will prioritise outdoor sport where possible. Where it's not, we will use both school halls and all windows and doors will be open to ensure sufficient ventilation. You will consult government guidance when planning for team sports. Football matches and tournaments re-introduced		LFT testing is now optional for staff – February 2022 The visitor guideline booklet will be reviewed by SBM Visitor protocol to be reviewed by Inclusion team Assemblies with no singing will be introduced during the 1st half term If it is safe to do so then Year 1 – Year 6 will visit St Matthew's church for Harvest (with NO parents). If it is safe to do so then Early Phase will produce a Christmas performance to parents After school football club will only take place on Monday and Wednesday and will use the dining hall and new tarmacked area ONLY. Children to be dismissed from the gate on new tarmacked area – parents to wait on colliery road. LT to model this to Wolves Staff and ensure parents / pupils are following social distancing / lining up. Additional clubs on a Tuesday – football and guitar club. Tutoring after school on a Monday and Tuesday – Feb 2022	SBM Inclusion team SLT Whole school Liam Tew PE leader Wolves Foundation staff	2/9/21 6/9/21 October 2021 Decembe r 2021 September 2021	
Spreading infection due to excessive	Staff Pupils	Where possible, meetings will be in the main hall with sufficient ventilation and adequate space to allow for social distancing or conducted by telephone or using video	L	INSET days will be held in the main hall or via TEAMs	2/9/21		

contact and mixing in meetings	Parents / carers Others	conferencing. This includes meetings with staff, parents/carers, visitors and governors. Governor meetings to continue on TEAMs		Staff briefings will continue on TEAMs CPD sessions will continue via TEAMs wherever and whenever possible CPD sessions to be reintroduced face to face – Feb ½ term	6/9/21		
Spreading infection through contact with coronavirus on surfaces	Pupils Staff Visitors / others	**<u>Cleaning</u>** • Our on-site cleaner (10:30-6:15pm) will carry out regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces – handles and toilets • Increase focus cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly (touch points) particularly in areas of high use such as classroom desks and tables, door and window handles, door panels, bannisters, light switches, reception area / sign in tablets, teaching and learning aids, computer equipment (including keyboards and mouse), sports equipment, telephones, printers/photocopier machines, using appropriate cleaning products and methods. • Items that need laundering (e.g. towels, flannels, bedding) will be washed regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, on the warmest water setting. These items will not be shared between children between washes. • Rigorous checks to be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed. • All cutlery and cups are thoroughly cleaned before and after use. • As soon as we hear that a staff member has tested positive with a lateral flow test, we will follow the same cleaning measures (laid out above) as if that staff member had been symptomatic while in school.	L	We have employed our cleaning supervisor to provide additional cleaning between 10:30-3pm daily Normal cleaners arrive and work between 3pm-6pm / 6:15pm All classrooms and staffrooms have cleaning materials for their own use All children have their own water bottles and staff empty / wash these daily All cutlery is collected at the end of lunchtime and washed by the kitchen SBM monitors the COVID stock – cleaning materials, hand sanitiser, soap, PPE	El cleaners Cleaners Class staff Class staff	3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21	

		• Cleaning supplies will be topped up regularly and monitored to make sure they're not close to running out. • Fire door handles to be cleaned regularly **<u>Reducing contact point activities</u>** • School minimises activities which involve the passing of items around a class • Children remain in classes, wherever possible and do not hare spaces / resources, wherever possible • School will cease hand shaking of visitors. • Carefully selected and assessed doors are propped open (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding risks), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation. – fire doors to be closed as of 7/3/2022 • Staff should avoid sharing any foods and should only be making drinks for themselves and cleaning all surfaces and touched objects (taps, water		At lunchtime, children in Year 2-Year 6 will remain in their own classrooms for lunch – windows and doors open. Tables will be cleaned before / after lunch. Children's Hands will be sanitised / washed. TA can wear gloves for distributing food. At lunchtime, EYFS will sit on the tables to the left (as you walk in – 11:30-12pm) – class 1 and class 2 to be kept as separate classes as far as possible (seating plan to be used so children sit in the same place daily) Children will be taken to the toilet before lunch At lunchtime, Y1 will sit on the tables to the right (as you walk in – 11:45-12:15pm) – class 3 and class 4 to be kept as separate classes as far as possible (seating plan to be used so children sit in the same place daily) Children will be taken to the toilet before lunch If drinks are made for visitors / other staff then gloves should be worn	B'OH Tas in Y2-Y6 EYFS Staff Y1 staff Staff	2/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21 3/9/21	

		boilers, spoons etc.) afterwards. All food including snacks should be taken home at the end of the working day. **<u>Shared resources</u>** Any resources shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment, will be cleaned frequently and meticulously. Any resources shared between staff, such as handheld radios, stationary, photocopiers, printers, laptops etc. , will be cleaned between use. The same rules will be followed for books and other shared resources that pupils or staff take home. However, unnecessary sharing will be avoided, especially where it doesn't contribute to pupil education and development. Individual and very frequently used equipment, like pens and pencils, will not be shared. Therapy equipment, such as physiotherapy or sensory equipment, will be cleaned between each use. If this is not possible or practical, it will be: • Restricted to one user; or • Rotated so it can be unused for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different individuals Teachers will wash their hands and surfaces before and after handling pupils' books.		Children will be given their own equipment, wherever possible	Class teachers	3/9/21	
Coronavirus outbreak	Pupils Staff	Eastfield has an outbreak management plan in place – please see separate document We will work with our local health protection team to decide if additional action is needed	M	Outbreak management plan to be reviewed regularly and in line with DFE / LA guidance	Head Teacher	3/9/21 after LA meeting 1/1/22	
Individuals vulnerable to serious infection	CEV Pregnant workers	**<u>CEV</u>** All staff and pupils, including those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)**,** should attend unless they're self-isolating or have been advised not to by their GP or clinician. Managers are encouraged to <u>talk to any clinically</u>		We do not currently have any CEV staff at Eastfield – however, we will review this regularly and if any staff member has any concerns then they must speak	Head Teacher All staff	As and when needed	

coming into school		extremely vulnerable workers returning to their workplace, so they can explain the measures being taken to ensure where they are working safely. **Pregnant workers** Preventative measures will be put in place for pregnant workers, in a specific risk assessment, such as adjustments to the job.		to the Head teacher and we can review current risk assessments Risk Assessment completed for Y6 teacher and reviewed regularly	KE	Novembe r 2021	
Spreading infection due to the school environment	Pupils Staff	Fire, first aid and emergency procedures will be reviewed to make sure they can still be followed with potentially limited staff and changes to how the school space is potentially being used. This will include checking that all fire doors are operational at all times, and that the fire alarm system and emergency lights have been tested and are fully operational. Emergency fire drills will be carried out as normal. Areas in use will be well ventilated by: • Opening windows • Propping open internal and external doors, where fire safety and safeguarding wouldn't be compromised A comfortable temperature will be maintained alongside increased ventilation by: • Opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts • Providing flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing • Increasing the level of ventilation while spaces are unoccupied (e.g. between classes, during break and lunch, when a room is unused). This means keeping windows slightly open while the room is occupied and opening more widely while unoccupied • Rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct drafts The use of lifts will be avoided unless essential.		Elite Safety in Education to complete termly audits with Site Manager and SBM Site Manager to complete all weekly and monthly checks Emergency fire drill will be completed week beginning 6/9/21 and also once EYFS are in school full time After using the CO2 monitor, we will (if possible) obtain ventilation units – and if possible, systems will be adjusted to full fresh air or, if not, then systems will operate as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply. These systems will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations Site Manager to monitor CO2 units	Site Manager School Business Manager	2/9/21 6/9/21 End of September After CO2 monitor arrives October 2021	

		Outdoor space will be used for exercise and breaks, and for education where possible.		School has 4 playgrounds and a field. Classes are allocated playgrounds for break times to try to minimise mixing – Year group playtimes to be introduced after Feb ½ term			
Spreading infection on educational day visits and residential visits	Staff Pupils	Separate risk assessment for each educational visit will be carried out to determine whether it can be undertaken safely which will be uploaded onto Evolve as part of trip planning.	L	JH will monitor the safety of visits and decide when they can take place – LT is now the EVC Feb 2022 Visits to be re-introduced Feb 2022 – LT to become the EVC Visits and Residentials re-introduced – Spring term Pay 360 used for payment to reduce risk of transmission	JH EVC LT	3/9/21 1/1/22	
Spreading infection – breakfast club	Breakfast Club staff and children attending	School organises its own Breakfast club, which is ran by school staff Kitchen staff provide the food	L	Maximum of 15 pupils to attend Children to have own entrance and own space, separate from the rest of the school – intervention space Additional sinks are available Number to be increased to 20 as of 1/1/22 Number to be reviewed Easter 2022	NP, KSt, DH	1/1/22	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date	Review Date
Risk Assessor	Sarah Hay	Head Teacher	S Hay	1/9/21 12/1/22 7/3/2022	1/1/22 Feb half term Easter
Line Manager	Elaine Johnson	Chair of Governors	E Johnson	2/9/21 12/1/22	1/1/22 Feb ½ term Easter

COVID19 UPDATE as a result of Omicron Variant – January 2022

We have been asked by Public Health to plan for 25% staff absence, 50% staff absence and 75% staff absence for the next 4 weeks (so up until half term). They are expecting Wolverhampton to hit between 2300-3,000 cases per 100,000 starting this week and there will be an affect on all services within the Council and school.

We are committed to keeping classes in school and as we have remained in bubbles then we think this should be achievable. Before we even think about home learning, then we will look at covering 'in house' using our HLTAs, support staff and non-class based staff. We will also join classes together if needed.

However, if needed then we may need to send a class home to learn remotely, as a last resort and we are currently making lists of vulnerable pupils (according to the DFE guidance). This is our current priority list for year groups remaining in school (subject to change):

Priority for Year groups remaining in school – based on FSM, SEN, Vulnerable pupils

- *Year 6 – SATs (tests are still going ahead and so children need to be in school)*
- *Reception and Year 1 – most difficult to learn from home*
- *Year 2*
- *Year 5*
- *Year 4*
- *Year 3*

Staff will continue to wear face coverings in all communal areas and we will ask visitors to do the same. We will restrict visitors in school to those who are absolutely necessary.

CHANGES with regards to COVID19 which affect school:

From 11/1/22, if a member of staff (or a child) tests positive on a LFT test, they do not need to do a PCR test unless they have 1 of the 3 traditional COVID symptoms – cough, temperature, loss of taste or smell. they must then self isolate for 10 days OR they can take a LFT test on day 6 and 7 and if they are negative (and do not have a temperature) then they only have to self-isolate for 7days and they can return to school.

Close Contacts – if someone is fully vaccinated (or a child aged over 5 but under 18 year and 6 months) and they are identified as a close contact then they no longer need to self-isolate. They are strongly encouraged to take daily LFT tests. Children under 5 are exempt from this testing and self-isolation

LFT testing for people who have had COVID within 90 days - To identify more of the potential reinfections with Omicron on the return to school in January, it has been decided that testing has been amended to allow all individuals to participate in routine asymptomatic infection detection with LFT once they have completed their 10 day isolation period for their prior infection.

Pupils / staff who are unwell with ill health presentations e.g. Headaches, sickness, sore throat, upset tummy etc are being asked by Public Health to take an LFT and not return to school unless the LFT is a negative result. If the LFT is positive then they do not need a PCR. IF PARENTS REFUSE TO LFT TEST THEIR CHILD, THEN THE CHILD CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL 48 HOURS AFTER THEY FEEL WELL.

Information given to parents 7th January 2022-COVID19 UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

It is really important that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell. This includes: headache, sickness, sore throat, upset tummy etc. Please do an LFT test and if it is negative and your child is feeling better then they can return to school. If your child is still feeling poorly with a headache, sickness, sore throat etc then please do not send them into school, please LFT test again the next day.

If you do decide not to LFT test then your child will need to stay at home until 48 hours after they feel well.

However, please remember that if you child presents with a: temperature, cough or loss of taste or smell then they need to go to a test centre and have a PCR (proper COVID test) and must self-isolate.

The best thing to do at the moment for your peace of mind is to LFT 2x weekly. If you or your child is unwell then please do an additional LFT test. If this LFT test is positive then you must self-isolate and let school know.

COVID update – change to national guidance February 2022

February 2022 Covid-19 Update Educational Settings

In line with national guidance, the LA is no longer asking schools to report cases of Covid-19 to them.

The LA will continue to ask you us focus on providing continuity to education and to keep children and staff in school as much as possible by following the advice below.

The below advice is based on experience of controlling spread and managing outbreak situations in educational settings.

It should be read in conjunction with:

• The government's COVID-19 response 'Living with COVID-19' - COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

• UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance People with Covid 19 and their contacts

• Department for Education (DfE) Contingency Framework Keep a record of positive cases - Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Although the LA will no longer be asking us to send information about positive cases, we will continue to keep our own records. This will enable swifter support should a significant outbreak occur where public health advice is sought.

Health and Safety in classrooms

Ensure classrooms are well ventilated by regularly opening windows and doors. Please utilise C02 monitors across your school site and regularly check that they are indicating that oxygen levels are good.

In colder weather advise pupils that they can wear or bring in an additional layer of clothing to school.

Consider if any activities such as exercise or lessons can be delivered outdoors if the weather allows

Ensure good hand hygiene by encouraging children to wash hands at regular times and to sanitise when hand washing is not practical.

Maintain a cleaning regime in classrooms which includes a regular clean of common touchpoints (e.g., door handles), commonly touched surfaces. Ensure antibacterial wipes are available to for wiping of surfaces and equipment in areas with high footfall.

Positive cases

In line with government guidance, anyone testing positive for Covid-19 is advised (but not legally required) to stay home and avoid contact with others for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

• a new continuous cough

• a high temperature

• a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result. There is additional guidance for people who have been informed by the NHS that they are at highest risk of becoming severely unwell and who might be eligible for new COVID-19 treatments.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

Asymptomatic LFD testing

Staff and students of secondary age and above in SEND settings, alternative provision settings, and SEND units within mainstream settings or equivalent in further education colleges are advised to continue twice-weekly testing.

For all staff and pupils in mainstream settings twice weekly testing is no longer recommended.

Contacts of positive cases

Contacts in mainstream schools are longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. However, those who live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19, are advised to follow the below advice for 10 days after the day the person they live or stayed with symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms):

• work from home if able to do so

• avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system

• limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces

• wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people

Locally, we advise that staff members working with vulnerable individuals in SEND settings, who are contacts of positive cases can continue to do daily contact testing for 7 days. *Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.*

Communication with parents

It is recommended to keep in regular contact with parents. Use these communications as an opportunity to:

- Reassure parents that if their child is well, they should be attending school
- Encourage them to take up offer of vaccine if they are eligible and have not yet done so
- Remain vigilant around their child and re-iterate that if their child is unwell for any reason, they are advised not to attend school until they are better.

Class Closures

If we are considering any class closures due to operational issues, we will discuss this with our designated School Improvement Advisor in the first instance. If any classes do need to close, we will ensure:

- An email notification of the closure is sent to schoolclosures@wolverhampton.gov.uk outlining the reason for closure, affected class(es) and the anticipated date of reopening
- children eligible for free school meals are provided with a voucher and
- those on Child Protection Plans have wellbeing checks during the closure.

Further advice The Local Authority Schools Helpline will be available for the remainder of the spring term by calling 01902 553957 or emailing schoolscovid@wolverhampton.gov.uk Monday-Friday 9am – 4pm