



St Joseph's Covid Outbreak Management Plan December 2021

1. Introduction

The DfE's published COVID Contingency Framework states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area. Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example: to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting, if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC).

In these cases, the Guidance also states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings. If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 and should be read alongside the DfE's latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID and the schools Covid risk assessment.

St Joseph's 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 A team, LCRC (London Covid Response Centre) or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

2. Outbreak Within Setting

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting is:

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

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 **WHICHEVER IS REACHED FIRST**

OR

• Has the confirmed Covid-19 case been hospitalised or died?

*Identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different for each setting - please see appendix D in 'Havering Standard Operating Procedure for Managing Covid-19 Cases in Educational Settings from December 2021'.

The best way to avoid an outbreak in school is to ensure preventative measures are in place.

Within all schools, the following will be in place:

A Covid risk assessment that reflects the current Government Guidance

Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with Guidance

Hand sanitiser will be freely available

Staff will LFT test twice weekly

Hand hygiene will be encouraged for staff and pupils

Cleaning will be undertaken regularly of high touch points

Should an outbreak be identified the following steps will be undertaken:

School will liaise with LCRC (London Covid Response Centre), passing on the relevant information

School will follow the LA guidance for notification

In collaboration with LCRC a decision will be made as to whether school can remain open

DfE will be informed if the school is to close

LA will be informed if the school is to close

The remote learning plan will be implemented

Visitors to the school will stop until deemed safe

School COVID Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases.

3. Shielding

St Joseph's 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. Other measures

If recommended, St Joseph's will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, St Joseph's will reintroduce:

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

5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, St Joseph's will implement the measures outlined in the sections below.

5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

In the first instance, St Joseph's will remain open for the following groups:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

5.2 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 Distance Learning Policy.

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

5.3 Extra-Curricular Clubs and Groups

If recommended St Joseph's will limit access to or suspend before and after-school activities.

5.4 Safeguarding

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

We shall aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site at all times.

It will be the responsibility of the SLT to create a staff working rota from those available. It will then be the DSL's responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable children are contacted weekly if they are not in school.

Review Date: To be reviewed in line with updated guidance