Covid-19 Generic risk assessment template for schools and childcare settings September 2021

The purpose of this template is to help schools decide which actions to take. They should undertake an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment, just as for other health and safety related hazards. This risk assessment must be done in consultation with staff and union representatives.

Introduction

"Step 4 has marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As Covid-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health" (taken from the Schools Covid-19 operational guidance).

The DfE has moved from contact tracing for single cases to an outbreak management approach for education settings. In line with this, the local authority has updated this risk assessment and other related guidance on EGfL such as the flowchart for schools in dealing with suspected or confirmed cases and the reporting of cases to the local authority. Schools already have business continuity/emergency management plans and it is expected that these or the schools Covid-19 risk assessment will include continency plans to cover how individual schools would operate if any of the measures within the contingency framework are temporarily recommended.

A revised risk assessment template has been prepared for schools (see below) to base their own risk assessments from September. A copy of the pre-September 2021 risk assessment should be retained for reference purposes and for those cases where additional protective measures are temporarily brought back.

Mixing and Bubbles

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') although the temporary re-introduction of 'bubbles' should be included in the schools contingency planning.

Social distancing

Social distancing measures have now ended in the workplace, including schools.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

School are no longer required to undertake contact tracing. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. This is likely to be the case for young children and those attending special schools. If identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, the following people are exempt from self-isolation but must follow government guidance including getting a PCR test:

- Those that are fully vaccinated
- Those that are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- Those that have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- Those that are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where one may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college. The temporary re-introduction of face coverings should be included in the schools contingency planning.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Monitors

CO2 monitors will be provided to all state-funded schools from September as part of an initiative led by central government. The monitors will enable staff to act quickly where ventilation is poor and provide reassurance that existing ventilation measures are working. The majority of these monitors shall be provided to schools in the autumn term and prioritised for special schools and alternative provisions. Further details will be available following the completion of the procurement of the CO2 monitors.

Covid-19 Vaccines

Schools should continue to encourage all those eligible for Covid vaccines to engage with the NHS vaccine programme.

The following actions will contribute to reducing the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission:

- 1) Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- 2) Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- 3) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- 4) Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Further government guidance can be found at: Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk),
Contingency framework: education and childcare settings (publishing.service.gov.uk) and on coronavirus information Ealing Grid for Learning

This Risk Assessment should be completed in conjunction with the guidance above and with the guidance available on EGfL

Further advice can be sought by contacting either Raj Chowdhury (Children's Services) or Steve Dunham (Children's Services)

Document Changes	Date
Original document published	22 nd May 2020
References made to EHCP children with 1-2-1 support. Hierarchy of controls added for all settings. Note added about virtual assemblies. Note added about seeking advice if required around propping of doors. Note added about cleaning of lunch areas. Note added on external providers of OT/physiotherapy and hydrotherapy sessions.	26 th May 2020
First page text amended to reflect the updated guidance on those clinically vulnerable and those clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding).	4 th June 2020
Text added about the 'Test and Trace' system and what schools should do in the event of a suspected or confirmed case.	19 th June 2020
Text added to clarify that staff members do not need to self-isolate as a precaution if they need to change 'bubbles'.	22 nd June 2020
Front page updated to reflect changes to government guidance for schools bringing back all children. Risk assessment rewrite based on amended government guidance	3rd July 2020
As a result of trade union consultation, a reminder added for schools to adequately record details of pupils, staff and visitors on site.	8 th July 2020
In line with updated guidance, the need for strict social distancing on dedicated transport removed and schools to provide immunisation programmes as normal added.	31 st July 2020

Updated to reflect the fact that the local authority now only needs to be informed about any positive cases (not suspected cases). In line with updated government guidance, the potential use of face coverings in secondary schools added.	26 th August 2020
In line with updated government guidance, face coverings now advised for over 11's on dedicated transport and a note added to ensure that ventilation is maximised on dedicated transport vehicles. Schools signposted to government guidance on; music, dance, drama, indoor/outdoor performances and team sports.	1 st September 2020
Link added to the HSE website on first aid. Link to the St John's Ambulance website removed.	10 th September 2020
DfE contact details added for any confirmed cases	17th September 2020
Changes made to reflect further controls due to the new virus variants and January 2021 national lockdown. Additional controls include; High schools may wish to use face coverings in classrooms, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, highlighting the need to keep visitors to an absolute minimum, reminding schools to keep 'bubble sizes' as small as possible and the rollout of asymptomatic testing in certain school settings.	8 th January 2021
Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 22 nd February 2021 for the full opening of schools in March. Changes made include the areas of face coverings and asymptomatic testing. Overall size of document also reduced.	24 th February 2021
Updates made in line with Government guidance published on 26 th March 2021. Changes made in the areas of; test and trace, CEV pupils, educational visits, wraparound care and extra-curricular activities and physical activities.	29 th March 2021

Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 10th May 2021. Foreword note added on face coverings. Additions made in the areas of educational visits, wraparound and extra-curricular	12th May 2021
provisions, performances and outdoor activities. Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 6 th July 2021 on Step 4 of the roadmap and local/London wide public health advice.	15 th July 2021
Aligned to the new phase in the government's response to the pandemic alongside advice from the local authority Public Health Team.	24 th August 2021

School:	School:			ss:	Rev	view Date:				
Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School			Greenford Roa 9AN	ad Greenford UB6				Ealin www.ealing.gov		
Assessment Date: 1 st September 2021			Biological haza	eing assessed? rd- Covid-19 within eduction ic risk assessment for solution	hools	s with signposts			_	ce. Schools
Name of Asse	ssor:					sponsible Persions:	son for			
Task / Activity Area	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	What are your existing controls? SLT's to write what is being done now and then refer to Recommended controls:	Recommended Control Measures SLT's to move Recommended Control into Existing Controls once they have been implemented:		Action by who/when?	Likelihood occurrence recomme controls at (L) 1-Very Ur 2-Unlikely 3- Possibl 4- Likely 5- Very Lil Likelihood Probabilit occurrence based on activity be assessed	e after nded dded likely e kely d = y of se specific	Impact (I) 1-Negligible 2- Minor 3- Moderate 4- Major 5- Extreme Impact = Estimate of harm based on specific activity being assessed	Overall Risk (L X I) + I <10 = Low 10-19 = Medium 20-30 = High

The content of this document was produced in consultation with partnering bodies and is now final. It will be kept under review and may change, refer to the change control table on page 3. Version 24 th August 2021

Who might be harmed and how?	What are your existing controls?	Recommended Control Measures	Action by who/when?	Likelihood of occurrence after recommended controls (L)	Impact (I)	Overall Risk (L X I) + I
Task / Activity Area Polic	y & Procedures Hazard Biolo	gical hazard- COVID-19				
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to acute respiratory syndrome respiratory symptoms, and, in rare cases, even death	Policies and procedures in place Training /updates	 All pupils, staff and volunteers are aware of all relevant policies and procedures including, but not limited to, the following: Health and Safety Policy First Aid Policy Social Distancing Policy Statement Coronavirus (COVID-19) Reopening Plan All staff have regard to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following: Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013 The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities' DfE and PHE (2020) 'COVID-19: guidance for educational settings' Staff receive any necessary training that helps ensure there is a happy and safe school environment, e.g. safeguarding, infection control training and pupil wellbeing training. The school keeps up-to-date with advice issued by, but not limited to,: DfE, NHS, PHE, LA Department of Health and Social Care 	SLT /Govs	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)

Task / Activity Area Enter	ring the school - Biologica	al hazard- Covid-19			
pupils could become infected with COVID- 19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and,	Parents from pupils in year 1- 6 drop off at the school gate and do not enter the school grounds. Parents of pupils in Nursery and Reception may bring their children into the outside areas to help them to settle in. Pupils go straight to class and wash hands	 Parents are aware to stay at home when a child or household member develops coronavirus symptoms and access PCR testing. Schools communicate this regularly to parents. On entry to school, staff and pupils to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and hands dried or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered. Skin friendly cleaning wipes can be used as an alternative. Guidance for school offices can be found here 	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)

Staff, parents and	Government guidance to be followed for high schools and	2	3	(2X3)
pupils could become	primary schools.			+3 =
pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death	Government guidance to be followed by early years settings. The early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework still applies. Specific guidance for Special schools and other specialist settings to be followed. As normal, schools should provide immunisation programmes on site, ensuring these will be delivered in keeping with the school's control measures. 1) Ensure good hygiene for everyone • Hand hygiene- Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is already a regular practice now. Schools to continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. • Respiratory hygiene-The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. The e-Bug COVID-19 website contains free resources for schools, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene. • Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)- Refer to the PPE section			+3 = 9 (Low)

2) Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents-

- Schools should maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule.
 This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces (both inside and outside including play equipment).
- Government guidance on cleaning followed

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

- Improve fresh air in poorly ventilated areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site
- Make use of the CO2 monitors that are being provided by central government to identify poorly ventilated rooms.
- Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).
- Ventilation strategy available on EGfL
- HSE guidance on ventilation available here
- CIBSE advice available <u>here</u>
- 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Symptoms:

- Pupils, staff and visitors should not come into school if they
 have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other
 reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of
 them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to
 quarantine).
- If anyone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they should be sent home (not via public transport wherever possible) and told to self-isolate and follow the <u>stay at home guidance</u> including taking a test. Any household members should also follow this guidance. Any pupil with symptoms awaiting collection should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate <u>PPE</u> should also be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

Asymptomatic Testing:

- Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.
- There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period.

Confirmatory PCR Tests:

 Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should selfisolate in line with the <u>stay at home guidance</u>. They will also need to get a free <u>PCR test</u> to check if they have Covid-19.
 Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue The content of this document was produced in consultation with partnering bodies and is now final. It will be kept under review and may change, refer to the change control table on page 3. Version 24th August 2021 to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the selftest LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. Additional information on PCR test kits for schools and further education providers is available. **Close Contact Tracing:** Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. If identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, the following people are exempt from self-isolation but must follow government guidance including getting a PCR test: Those that are fully vaccinated • Those that are below the age of 18 years 6 months Those that have taken part in or are currently part of

an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

 Those that are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Vaccine uptake:

 Schools should continue to encourage all those eligible for Covid vaccines to engage with the NHS vaccine programme.

Face coverings:

• Refer to PPE section

CEV Children:

 All CEV children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend. Further information is available in the guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions and on EGfL

CEV Staff:

 CEV people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus.

Out-of school settings and wraparound childcare:

		Planning guidance can be found <u>here</u>			
Task / Activity Arc	ea Educational visits - Biolog	gical hazard- Covid-19			
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death		 Schools should not go on any international visits until the autumn term. All visits should follow the Ealing There and Back Again Policy. All school educational visits will resume from the Autumn term. Individual school visits risk assessments to be completed with due care given to COVID – 19. 	1	3	(1X3) +3 = 6 (Low)
Task / Activity Arc	ea Lunch Biological hazard-	Covid-19			
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this	Before eating, Pupils to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and hands dried or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser • Pupils are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose	 School kitchens to continue to operate but must comply to the guidance for food businesses on Coronavirus The school has created a lunchtime rota that reduces the number of children in the Hall to two year groups. Year 5 and 6 pupils will continue to eat in the classroom. 	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)

could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death	All windows in the hall to be kept open to ensure good ventilation				
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death	ea Transport Arrangements	 Schools, parents and students should follow the Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers All pupils travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice Public transport: Face coverings to be used by children over the age of 11. Childminders and other early years settings to work with parents to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, for example pick-ups and drop-offs at school, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children. If a pick up or drop off is required, walking is preferable. If not practicable, then a private vehicle is preferable to public 	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)
Task / Activity Are	Dealing with suspected a	transport. Ind confirmed cases of Covid-19 Biological hazard- Covid-19 Refer to the flowchart on dealing with suspected and	2	3	(2X3)
pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they		confirmed cases on EGfL	_		+3 = 9 (Low)

are likely to If a pupil develops symptoms and is awaiting collection, experience mild government guidance should be followed and the pupil moved to a ventilated isolation room. symptoms such as If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved to fever or cough. In isolation room, (medical room) with appropriate adult severe cases, this supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened could lead to severe for ventilation. If they need to go to the bathroom while illness and waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom hospitalisation, and, (disabled toilet). The bathroom should be cleaned and in rare cases, even disinfected using standard cleaning products before being death used by anyone else. The attending adult will be wearing PPE equipment (gloves, mask, plastic apron and when necessary goggles). The attending adult will take the child's temperature with a digital thermometer. • The attending adult will phone the office from the medical room and ask them to contact the parent/carer. The full name of the child must be provided. Local outbreaks If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, it will be decided which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.

	ea Use of PPE/face covering	Schools and the local authority will manage any cases that meet or exceed DfE thresholds in accordance with the DfE Contingency Framework S Biological hazard- Covid-19			
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death		 Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. They are, however, recommended for use in enclosed and crowded spaces where one may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. Government guidance on PPE to be followed. Any PPE should be disposed of in line with Government guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. 	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)
Task / Activity Area A	dministering First aid/ Med	lication Biological hazard- Covid-19			
Staff, parents and	• Schools have a suitable	• <u>HSE guidance on first aid</u> followed. This includes first aid cover	2	3	(2X3)
pupils could become	number of staff on duty	and qualifications as well as guidance for first aiders			+3 =
infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild	• Schools have a first aid risk assessment and medication policy in	 Administering first aid and medication risk assessments to be amended by schools Government PPE guidance followed. 			9 (Low)
symptoms such as	place				

fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death				
Task / Activity Area Leaving the schoo	l Biological hazard- Covid-19			
Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with COVID-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death	Staff and pupils to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and hands dried or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered. Skin friendly cleaning wipes can be used as an alternative.	2	3	(2X3) +3 = 9 (Low)

Likelihood:						
Very Likely	5	6	12	18	24	30
Likely	4	5	10	15	20	25
Possible	3	4	8	12	16	20
Unlikely	2	3	6	9	12	15
Very Unlikely	1	2	4	6	8	10
		1	2	3	4	5
Impact:		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme