

**September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021**

### **Risk assessment**

We risk assess and have captured risk and how we minimise risks in a risk assessment. This is an ongoing and live document.

This can be found on the front page of the school website and attached to this email. Please read this document as it explains how we will begin a covid cautious school year.

We also have an outbreak management plan and it may become necessary to reintroduce smaller 'bubbles' (amongst other measures) for a temporary period, to reduce the spread of the virus.

### **Mixing and 'bubbles'**

The guidance says it is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will not need to be used from the autumn term.

As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

### **Uley measures:**

- Staggered lunchtime – infants eating first in the hall followed by juniors.
- Morning play – infants playing in a different area to juniors for the time being.
- Worship – infants one end of the hall, juniors the other.
- Class/whole school events on hold for the time being until further information received. All events will be risk assessed and managed within guidelines.
- Fun Club will also organise sessions with infant and junior groups for the time being in-line with school.
- To continue the one-way system for dropping off and picking up to avoid forming groups in the playground – this will be under constant review.
- School will return to pre-covid timings. Children filter in to school from 8.40am. School starts at 8.50am.
- Class 1 in and out of bottom gate – parents come into playground.
- Class 2 in through the double gates at the top of the footpath and through the main reception door.
- Class 2 leave school to stand to the right of the slope by buddy bench.
- Class 3 in through the double gates at the top of the footpath and through the main reception door.
- Class 3 leave school to stand and wait to the left of the slope by the picnic table.
- Class 4 in and out of the hall door.

## **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and school will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

The NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent 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.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

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

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). It is recommended that all individuals should take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

Uley School will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting (see [Stepping measures up and down](#) section for more information) or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

## **Face coverings**

The guidance says 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 you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

### **In circumstances where face coverings are recommended**

If we have a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school a director of public health might advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). Our contingency plans cover this possibility.

### **Uley measures:**

We recommend the use of face coverings for all adults when it is difficult to keep distance.

Individuals at Uley school may wear face coverings should they feel it is required. Uley School may request on wearing face coverings as part of the school's own risk assessments and contingency planning, and would appreciate support in this matter in order to reduce the risk.

## **Stepping measures up and down**

We have a contingency plan (sometimes called outbreak management plans) outlining what we will do if children, pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we will operate if we are advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

## **Control measures**

### **We will:**

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.

### **1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone**

#### **Hand hygiene**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. The children and adults will continue to clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

#### **Respiratory hygiene**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

#### **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.

### **2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents**

Cleaning schedules still remain in place. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

### **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

When school is in operation, we will ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

We will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

CO2 monitors will also 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.

#### **4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19**

##### **When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test**

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They 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 school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, they will be sent home and asked to follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they 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 PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms they use will be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

##### **Asymptomatic testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.

Staff at Uley will continue to undertake twice weekly tests until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

##### **Confirmatory PCR tests**

Staff with a positive Lateral Flow test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

##### **Other considerations**

All clinically extremely vulnerable (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 clinician or other specialist not to attend.

##### **Admitting children into school**

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, schools can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

## **Attendance**

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

## **Travel and quarantine**

Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

## **Remote education**

Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, we will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to learn from home if they are well enough to do so. Please refer to our Remote Learning Policy

### **When to self-isolate**

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)

### **When you do not need to self-isolate**

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

### **Getting a PCR test if you have no symptoms**

You can also use this service if:

- you've been in contact with someone who's tested positive
- you've been asked to get a test by a local council or someone from NHS Test and Trace
- a GP or other health professional has asked you to get a test
- you're taking part in a government pilot project
- you've been asked to get a test to confirm a positive result
- you've received an unclear result and were told to get a second test
- you need to get a test for someone you live with who has symptoms
- you're in the National Tactical Response Group

### **Tell people you've been in close contact with that you have symptoms**

Tell people you've been in close contact with in the past 48 hours that you might have COVID-19.

You should tell them to follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#).

They do not need to self-isolate unless they're contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service.

If they get any symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate and get a test as soon as possible.

### **How long to self-isolate**

If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.

You may need to self-isolate for longer if you get symptoms while self-isolating or your symptoms do not go away.

Read more about [how long to self-isolate](#).

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)