

Herne Bay High School

COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan

The Government's overall priority for education is *'to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk'*. (DfE, August 2021)

Although many of the measures within school, that were coordinated prior to the end of the Summer Term of 2020/21, have been relaxed, it is recognised that there may be circumstances that will necessitate the school to review its approaches in order to respond to an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 within its community - this COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan documents the measures that will be considered in such circumstances.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mr Boyes (Executive Principal) will oversee this COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan supported by, particularly, Mr Harris (Head of School), Mrs Molloy (Director of Communications) and Mr Eastwood (Health and Safety Manager). This team will meet regularly to review and update the Outbreak Management Plan if necessary.

When the school will consider extra action and as such consider implementing elements of this COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan

The Government have suggested that the thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test 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

The Government advice is that all settings should seek public health advice if a student or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19 – this can be done by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1). Note - hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Settings may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan Possible Actions

When the above thresholds are reached:

1. the school will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures that are already in place and adapt accordingly.

2. the school may seek additional public health advice if there are concerns about transmission within the setting by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1).
3. the school may advise staff and students re. the expectation to undertake more frequent testing and it may consider the reintroduction of its asymptomatic test site (ATS)
4. the school may advise staff and students that face coverings should temporarily be worn, this may include face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms.
5. the school will respond to Government advice re. shielding - shielding is currently paused. However, in the event of a major outbreak that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list, ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding – in such circumstances the school will respond accordingly.
6. The school will consider whether to cancel or reduce the numbers attending or revisit its approach re. such things as • assemblies • visits • trips • open days • transition or taster days • parents' evenings • live performances evenings • sporting events etc.
7. the school may reinstate its year group bubbles and as such consider staggered starts, social and finish times and the wider use of the school site including lunch time/eating arrangements.
8. the school may reinstate its approaches to social distancing exceptions within and beyond classrooms.
9. the school may reinstate its approaches to remote education and the use of Teams as the medium to do this.
10. the school may coordinate further enhanced cleaning approaches.
11. the school may consider whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes.

Vulnerable children and young people

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, the school will, as appropriate:

- follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns
- encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Virtual School Head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate
- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home
- have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so