



OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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)

This Outbreak Management Plan outlines how Pioneer Academies Community Trust would operate if any of the additional measures were recommended for our setting or area. This plan includes how Pioneer Academies Community Trust will ensure every child receives the quantity and quality of education and care to which they are normally entitled.

Pioneer Academies Community Trust is a multi-academy trust comprising of three schools based over three sites located in the Barnsley area. Our school cohorts range from 3–11-year-old. The schools currently operated by the Trust are:

- Summerfields Primary Academy, Haigh Croft, Barnsley, S71 4SF
- Parkside Primary Academy, Midland Road, Barnsley, S71 4QP
- Carlton Primary Academy, Fish Dam Lane, Barnsley, S71 3HF

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation for which guidance is being developed at a fast pace and is subject to change with little notice. This plan will be kept under review, particularly sections that provides links to national guidance and other relevant information to support outbreak control.

Guidance

BACKGROUND

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- New continuous cough
- A high temperature (over 37.8 degrees)
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

Mode of transmission

COVID-19 is passed from person to person mainly by large respiratory droplets and direct contact (close unprotected contact, usually less than one metre). These droplets can be directly inhaled by the person or can land on surfaces which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes.

Incubation period

The incubation period (i.e., time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 14 days (median 5 days).

When is a person infectious?

A person is thought to be infectious 48 hours before symptoms appear, and up to seven days after they start displaying symptoms.

Can children pass on the infection?

There is some uncertainty about how much asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic children can transmit the disease but the evidence so far from a number of studies suggests children are less likely to pass it on and do not appear to play a major role in transmission. Most children with COVID-19 have caught the infection from adults and not the reverse. This is unlike 'flu.

When one case occurs in educational and childcare settings or provision

The response to a single case has many of the same features as the response to an outbreak and is managed using a preventative approach. Where two cases are linked in time to a setting then this suggests transmission and requires a more active approach.

FURTHER ADVICE

This plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID (this is not an exhaustive list, and these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance).

- actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>
- actions for schools during the COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- guidance for special schools and other specialist settings: COVID-19
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>
- Summer schools programme guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme>
- contingency framework: education and childcare settings
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

Prioritising Education

The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people, and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Decision-makers should endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so. Measures affecting education and childcare settings across an area should not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures.

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort. Where measures include attendance restrictions, the Department for Education (DfE) may advise on any groups that should be prioritised. The Government will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way settings should operate.

PRIORITISING CERTAIN YEAR GROUPS

The DfE has stated that early years and primary settings should be “prioritised to continue to operate as normal”, although the department “may advise that other groups should be prioritised”.

Early Years

If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should be allowed to attend.

Primary Schools

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend.

PRIORITISING EDUCATION

LIMITS ON ATTENDANCE

If attendance needs to be restricted further at either phase, vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers should still be able to attend. Limits on attendance will only ever be considered as a last resort.

As with other periods of restricted attendance, schools within the Pioneer Academies Community Trust will provide high quality remote education for all pupils or those not attending.

Restrictions on attendance may be advised by local teams for individual settings or clusters of closely linked settings. If attendance restrictions are required across an area, the Government will publish detailed operational guidance for schools.

If restrictions on pupil attendance are needed, Pioneer Academies Community Trust will determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, Pioneer Academies Community Trust and School Leaders will:

- 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
- All vulnerable children and EHCP pupils must have a bespoke risk assessment which is discussed, shared, and agreed by parents/carers

If settings have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Outbreak Management Plan

This Outbreak Management Plan outlines how Pioneer Academies Community Trust would operate if any of additional measures were recommended for the school sites from national guidance due to a Variant of Concern or extended lockdown measures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each school will appoint a designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The implementation of the management plan will also be overseen by a designated person at Trust level. These persons are:

- Central Trust – Harry Wood, Chief Executive Officer
- Summerfields Primary Academy – Lisa Tabbner, Headteacher
- Parkside Primary Academy – Rachel Ward, Headteacher
- Carlton Primary Academy – Alex Steadman, Headteacher

SCENARIO 1 – SINGLE CONFIRMED COVID CASE

If there is one case identified in school the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- Schools will follow their Local Authority reporting guidance and liaise with Public Health teams passing on relevant information
- Those in close contact will be contacted by NHS track and trace and advised of next steps
- Consideration will be given to transport and visitor contacts
- Remote learning plan to be implemented for those isolating
- School Covid Risk Assessment to be evaluated in light of any learning from new case

SCENARIO 2 – OUTBREAK WITHIN SETTING

For most education and childcare settings an outbreak will be identified when one of these thresholds are 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.

An outbreak is deemed to last 28 days from the last positive diagnosis.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The best way to avoid an outbreak in a setting is to ensure preventative measures are in place. Within all settings the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment for each setting that reflects the current Government Guidance
- Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with Guidance
- Hand sanitiser will be freely available
- Staff who can work from home will be advised to do so
- LFT testing will be available for staff and visitors

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

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information
- Schools will follow their LA guidance for notification
- In collaboration with Public Health and the Trust Leadership Team 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
- Remote learning plan will be implemented
- If required, the school will reintroduce bubbles and social distancing.
- If bubbles and social distancing are reintroduced, staggered breaks, lunchtimes, and start and finish times will be reintroduced.
- External visits to the school will stop until deemed safe
- School COVID Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases

SCENARIO 3 – THE SETTING IS AFFECTED BY A PACKAGE OF LOCAL OR NATIONAL MEASURES

The COVID situation is ever changing as are the directed responses. Settings will work with the Trust to ensure that they implement any Local or National restrictions and guidance. Schools will work in collaboration with professionals and stakeholders to limit the impact on educational delivery. This will include working with the following:

- Parents/carers
- Pupils
- Public Health
- Local Authority
- Social Care
- DfE
- ProAktive (Health and Safety Consultants)

Support Plans

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT

Pioneer Academies Community Trust continues to update site specific COVID-19 Risk Assessments in line with national guidance. COVID-19 Risk Assessments are updated in consultation with school leaders and uploaded regularly to school websites.

COVID-19 Risk Assessments will be updated in the event of:

- Changes to National Guidance
- Updates on COVID-19 Roadmap
- Local outbreaks
- School Related Outbreaks
- Variants of Concern

Dedicated Testing Sites

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will establish which schools might be required to establish dedicated testing sites following national guidance and previous guidance from Schools, Colleges Testing Handbook V3.7.

Home Testing

Schools will continue to provide testing kits to staff twice a week and encourage their use. Additional use of home testing by staff and pupils may be advised and will be encouraged by schools. Evidence of negative test results may be requested for access to school sites for events such as taster days and school proms.

All schools will ensure that they remain well stocked with LFD tests in case there is a requirement to increase home testing.

FACE COVERINGS

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will introduce the use of face masks in schools for staff in all communal areas on activation of this plan.

COVID-19 Risk Assessments will be updated in line with guidance and parents/carers will be informed of the reintroduction of face coverings.

Site Managers will ensure that schools have sufficient stock of PPE including face masks.

The School COVID-19 Risk Assessments still state that all visitors to school sites including parents and contractors are to always wear face coverings.

SUPPORT PLANS

SHIELDING

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or Variant of Concern that poses a significant risk to individuals on the Shielded Patient List (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding. Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are taken into account.

Risk Assessments will be updated to include shielding and Pioneer Academies Community Trust will support individuals with remote working if required. If the shielded person is a pupil, then the remote learning plan would be implemented.

Please note: Shielding can only be reintroduced by National Government.

SAFEGUARDING

It is expected that all schools have a DSL on site, if this is not possible a senior leader will take on the responsibility for coordinating safeguarding and remote support will be given by the Central Trust.

Wellbeing calls will be made regularly (in line with individual pupil risk assessments) to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

MEALS

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals will be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria.

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will continue to provide free school meals support in the form of meals or lunch parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

Further information is available in the guidance on providing school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pioneer Academies Community Trust will continue to support pupils who are eligible for, and usually receive, free meals even if pupils are studying remotely due to COVID-19.

IT ACCESS

As part of the school remote learning plan, details will be held of who requires a device to be provided. These will be available to be collected from school or, if there is prior warning, they will be distributed prior to class/school closures.

SUPPORT PLANS

Part of the wellbeing calls will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required.

TRANSPORT

Transport services to education settings should continue to be provided as normal where children are attending education settings.

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will encourage children and families to walk, scoot or cycle to school.

On activation of this plan, children / adults on dedicated school transport may be directed to wear face coverings.

COMMUNICATION

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will ensure that all plans that would involve imposed restriction will be communicated to all staff members and parents. This will include information on:

- Opening arrangements
- Access for specific targeted groups where applicable, such as certain year groups, vulnerable pupils, and children of critical workers.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of the school's risk assessment.
- Arrangements for remote working.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Pioneer Academies Community Trust will endeavour to support all pupils and staff with their ongoing mental health and well-being.

OTHER MEASURES

Other Measures

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Risk Assessments for trips include COVID-19 procedures and are updated following national guidance.

Educational Day Visits were able to resume from 12th April 2021. Any educational day visits must be conducted in line with relevant COVID-secure guidelines and regulations and a full risk assessment in relation to all educational visits must be undertaken to ensure they can be undertaken safely. As part of this risk assessment, schools will need to consider what control measures need to be used and follow wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues. School Leaders should consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

Educational Day Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of activation of this plan. School leaders must discuss this with Central Trust before any decision is made.

Domestic Residential Educational Visits can be undertaken from 17th May 2021. Any domestic residential educational visits must be conducted in line with relevant COVID-19 guidance and regulations and risk assessments should be undertaken.

Domestic Residential Educational Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of activation of this plan. School leaders must discuss this with Central Trust before any decision is made.

International Visits: The Government has now published red, amber, and green list rules for entering England. Given the complexities attached to international travel at this stage of the pandemic, the Government recommends schools do not go on any international visits this academic year up to and including 5th September 2021. The position beyond 5th September 2021 will be reviewed again in advance of Step 4.

International Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of activation of this plan. School leaders must discuss this with Central Trust before any decision is made.

OPEN DAYS

In the event of activation of this plan, transitional, taster and open days will be managed through the completion of a thorough risk assessment in line with agreed system of controls and align with the advice contained from the Government roadmap out of lockdown.

Open days will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of activation of this plan.

In the event of cancellation, remote transitional, taster and open days will be managed by school leaders.

Individual site risk assessments will be completed and will include:

- parents/carers will be asked to produce a negative COVID-19 test before entry to site

OTHER MEASURES

- separate entry and exit points to school
- minimum number of participants (if any)
- All visitors to wear face coverings and regularly wash/sanitise hands

PARENTAL ATTENDANCE IN SETTINGS

In the event of activation of this plan, parents/carers will be advised to limit their access to site as much as possible.

- Parents/carers or visitors permitted on school site by invitation only and must have an arranged appointment.
- Visitors will be collected from reception as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary waiting.
- All visitors will be expected to wear a face covering and will be informed of this when a meeting is booked. This can be removed in the venue for the meeting if social distancing is possible.
- Where possible conversations with parents/carers staff will be either over the phone or via the school's post-box email address.
- Parents/carers will not be permitted to attend school fixtures such as football matches etc.

PERFORMANCES IN SETTINGS

If the school is planning an indoor or outdoor face-to-face performance in front of a live audience, staff should continue to follow the latest performing arts guidance, and the guidance on delivering outdoor events.

Performances will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of activation of this plan.

EVENTS AND PROMS

Outdoor events are generally lower risk. Once the school have undertaken a risk assessment and planned the event in line with the system of controls, the school may consider an outdoor event (for example a leavers' celebration or prom) that caters for more than one bubble or consistent group, as long as the groups continue to be kept separate.

Events and Proms will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of activation of this plan.

Local authorities, Directors of Public Health (DsPH) and PHE Health Protection Teams (HPTs) may recommend precautions in one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

SUMMER SCHOOLS (DELIVERED UNDER DFE'S SUMMER SCHOOL FUNDING SCHEME)

In most circumstances, children should be allowed to attend summer schools as planned. Facilities and activities should reflect any local or national restrictions.

OTHER MEASURES

If attendance restrictions are needed as a last resort, the academic element of the programme may need to be delivered remotely.

Children should still also be allowed to attend holiday activities and food programme provision “in most circumstances”. However, if Pioneer Academies Community Trust and School Leaders decide not to hold face-to-face holiday clubs as a result of COVID-19, for example if they are cancelled following Government advice, schools will operate flexibly to ensure that eligible children still receive support that meets the aims of the programme.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SETTINGS AND WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE

If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and young people should be allowed to attend. For all other children, parents and carers should only be allowed to access these providers for face-to-face provision for their children for a limited set of essential purposes, such as to allow them to go to or seek work, attend a medical appointment, or undertake education and training.

Restrictions on attendance may need to vary depending on whether provision will be operating during school term-time and/or school holidays, when schools are otherwise closed to ensure sufficient childcare provision remains available to those that need it most. Therefore, the advice outlined above could be subject to change.

Further advice will be provided should this be the case. In the meantime, providers should continue to refer to guidance on protective measures for holiday, after school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

CLEANING

Pioneer Academies Community Trust continues to follow robust cleaning regimes in schools such as:

- Additional COVID-19 Response Cleaners
- Enhanced cleaning of school sites
- Enhance Touch-Point cleaning processes

Following the identification of the person with COVID-19 symptoms, COVID-19 Response Cleaners will clean and disinfect:

- All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with, including objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids; and
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells

16.3 In the event of a Variant of Concern or local outbreak cleaning will be enhanced further:

- Deep cleans of whole school and specific areas
- Additional cleaning support

OTHER MEASURES

- Additional training of cleaners

WASTE

Pioneer Academies Community Trust continues to manage effective waste management on school sites.

All waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues), should be:

- Put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. That plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
- Stored safely and kept away from children. Waste should not be put in communal waste areas for at least 72 hours. It can then be disposed of normally.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

Infection prevention and control precautions continues to be implemented including:

- Good hand hygiene before entering and after leaving the setting, as well as regularly throughout the day.
- Ensuring that everyone (staff and pupils) catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. If a tissue is not available, then the crook of the elbow should be used rather than hands.
- Dispose of tissues promptly in a waste bin and then perform hand hygiene.