Alongside the ‘Guide to completing an Educational Settings COVID19 Risk Assessment’ document, this document has been designed to provide settings with considerations to be made following the announcement on August 16th and recent lifting of restrictions. Risk Assessments should be reviewed and updated following government recommendations alongside your own local arrangements, where supported by your employer.

It is expected that Educational Settings will continue to:

* Promote full vaccination of all staff, alongside promoting vaccination among appropriate pupils and parents.
* Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
* Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
* Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
* Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Local Authority understands there is no "one size fits all" approach and that decisions regarding how to minimise/prevent transmission are made based on circumstances particular to your local setting and local intelligence, alongside other Health & Safety considerations. We are supportive of settings who choose to follow good practice such as using consistent groupings, staggered, start and finish times, minimising bringing parents onto site and further use of face coverings where appropriate.

Please note that from the 16th August 2021 onwards, close contacts who have had both doses of vaccination (more than 14 clear days prior to date of exposure to case) and those aged under 18 years and 6 months will not be required to self-isolate (unless they are symptomatic or test positive), but will be asked to take a PCR test, continue with regular twice weekly LFT testing, limit social contact with others and wear a face covering in indoor public spaces.

## [Educational Settings COVID Operational Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#risk-assessment) 19th July 2021

**Mixing and ‘bubbles’**

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). This means that bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer Educational Settings) or in Educational Settings from the autumn term. However, please note local guidance/position outlined on first page.

You should make sure your outbreak management plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce ‘bubbles’ for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

**Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Please refer to Outbreak Management Plan guidance and template for further details regarding this.

**Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Please note local guidance/position outlined on first page.

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 Educational Setting or college.

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

If you have an outbreak in your Educational Setting, the Director of Public Health might advise you that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils staff and visitors, unless exempt). You should make sure your outbreak management plans cover this possibility.In these circumstances, transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. Transparent face coverings may be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. However, the evidence to support this is currently very limited. Face coverings (whether transparent or cloth) should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made with a breathable material capable of filtering airborne particles.

The main benefit from a transparent face covering is that they can aid communication, for example enabling lip-reading or allowing for the full visibility of facial expressions, but this should be considered alongside the comfort and breathability of a face covering that contains plastic, which may mean that the face covering is less breathable than layers of cloth.

The use of face coverings may have a particular impact on those who rely on visual signals for communication.

You have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils to support them to access education successfully. Where appropriate, you should discuss with pupils and parents the types of reasonable adjustments that are being considered to support an individual.

No pupil or student should be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.

**Stepping measures up and down**

You should have outbreak management plans outlining how you would operate if there were an outbreak in your Educational Setting or local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in Educational Settings should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of Educational Settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission. If you have two or more linked cases in a 14 day period in your setting, you have an outbreak. Please notify Warwickshire County Council of all cases, and for advice regarding outbreaks.

**Control measures**

You should:

1. Promote full vaccination of all staff, alongside promoting vaccination among appropriate pupils and parents.
2. Ensure good hygiene for everyone, using signage and providing hand sanitiser or hot water and soap for regular use
3. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, ensuring regular touch points are included within your regime
4. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated, do not prop open Fire Doors or use desk, portable or floor standing fans.
5. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
6. **Promote full vaccination of all staff, alongside promoting vaccination among appropriate pupils and parent**

Information about drop-in clinics across Coventry and Warwickshire and all vaccinations sites that you can book into can found in the links below:

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-drop-in-clinics/>

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-sites/>

1. **Ensure good hygiene for everyone**

* **Hand hygiene**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should 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](https://e-bug.eu/eng_home.aspx?cc=eng&ss=1&t=Information%20about%20the%20Coronavirus) contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

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

Most staff in Educational Settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care) provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.

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

You should put in place and 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. PHE has published guidance on the [cleaning of non-healthcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings).

1. **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

When your Educational Setting is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

You should identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, Educational Setting plays.

Mechanical ventilation is a system that uses a fan to draw fresh air or extract air from a room. These should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated.

If possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply.

Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, you should ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers’ recommendations.

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).

You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. The [Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm) and [CIBSE COVID-19 advice](https://www.cibse.org/coronavirus-covid-19) provides more information.

DfE is working with Public Health England, NHS Test and Trace, and the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) on a pilot project to measure CO2 levels in classrooms and exploring options to help improve ventilation in settings where needed.

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

When an individual develops one or moreCOVID-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](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/). They should not come into Educational Setting 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 your Educational Setting develops one of more [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.If a pupil in a boarding Educational Setting shows symptom, they should usually self-isolate in their residential setting so that their usual support can continue, others may then benefit from self-isolating in their family home.

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. Further information on this can be found in the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care) guidance. Any rooms they use should 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

* **Asymptomatic testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within Educational Settings. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Over the summer, staff and secondary pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer Educational Settings. Educational Settings will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending Educational Setting. However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary Educational Setting pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Settings may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Locally, we are also encouraging LFT testing for children in all settings.

Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Secondary Educational Settings should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

Year 6 pupils will be offered the 2 tests at an ATS at the beginning of the autumn term when they start at their secondary Educational Setting as a new year 7. Educational Settings may choose, however, to start testing year 6 pupils earlier, including in summer Educational Settings, depending on their local circumstances.

* **Confirmatory PCR tests**

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). 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 the Educational Setting, as long as the individual doesn’t have COVID-19 symptoms. If the PCR test is not taken in that time frame, then the LFD test stands, and the child needs to continue to isolate.

Additional information on [PCR test kits for Educational Settings and further education providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers) is available.

**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. Further information is available in the guidance on [supporting pupils at Educational Setting with medical conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3).

You should ensure that key contractors are aware of the Educational Setting’s control measures and ways of working.

**Admitting children into Educational Settings**

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the Educational Setting, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your Educational Setting, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Your decision would need to be carefully considered, considering all the circumstances and current public health advice.

**Attendance**

Educational Setting attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory Educational Setting age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend their Educational Settings. Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by Public Health England/UK Health Security Agency or the DHSC they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness). For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the [Educational Setting attendance guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance).

**Travel and quarantine**

Where pupils travel from abroad to attend a boarding Educational Setting, you will need to explain the rules to pupils and their parents before they travel to the UK. All pupils travelling to England must adhere to [travel legislation](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/582/contents), details of which are set out in [government travel advice](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england). Additional guidance has been issued on the [quarantine arrangements for boarding Educational Setting pupils travelling from red-list countries to attend a boarding Educational Setting in England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quarantine-arrangements-for-boarding-school-students-from-red-list-countries).

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, you should support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so. Educational Settings subject to the [remote education temporary continuity direction](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-temporary-continuity-direction-explanatory-note) are required to provide remote education to pupils covered by the direction where their attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19.

You should maintain your capacity to deliver high-quality remote education for the next academic year, including for pupils who are abroad, and facing challenges to return due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad.

Independent Educational Settings (not including academies) are only covered by the remote education temporary continuity direction in relation to state-funded pupils in their Educational Settings. However, they are still expected to meet the [Independent Educational Setting Standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulating-independent-schools) in full at all times. The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in Educational Setting.

You should work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education.

Full expectations for remote education, support and resources can be found on the [get help with remote education service](https://get-help-with-remote-education.education.gov.uk/).