



Contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in the Olney Schools

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19, published by the Department for Education \(DfE\)](#) and the [schools operational guidance](#)

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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or Milton Keynes Health Team.

2. Prioritising Education

It has been made clear by the Government that continuing education is key and that all steps should be taken to minimise further disruption to schools as far as possible.

There will be circumstances where school leaders need to take action but they 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.

All measures should be kept under review and lifted as soon as evidence supports doing so.

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort.

3. Testing

Testing is not a recommended measure for pupils in primary settings. Staff are still recommended to continue twice weekly testing as normal practice until at least the end of September 2021. Further testing may be required in response to a local outbreak.

4. Face Coverings

Face coverings may be used in communal areas, or more widely, depending on local factors and any move to re-introduce face coverings should be based on local data and should be implemented with an explanation as to why they are required, to ensure that staff fully understand the reasoning.

5. Shielding

Shielding guidance will be issued nationally and all IFtL schools will follow national guidance. We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

6. Other Measures

Where appropriate, we may limit the following

- residential educational visits
- open days
- transition or taster days
- parental attendance in settings
- performances in settings

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) may recommend these precautions in one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

Parents and other stakeholders will be kept informed about the introduction of control measures.

7. Attendance Restrictions

Attendance restriction will only be considered as a last resort and will usually be in line with guidance from PHE or local authorities.

Where attendance restrictions are in place, schools will ensure that they are able to continue to deliver the high-quality remote education that was implemented previously.

Priority must be given to vulnerable children and the children of key-workers to enable them, as far as possible, to attend in line with their normal timetables.

As far as possible, all children in Foundation and KS1 should be allowed to attend as normal.

8. Out of School and Wraparound Care

If attendance restrictions are put in place, priority will be given to vulnerable children so that they are able to access wraparound care.

Attendance for others will be available only if parents need to attend work, education or training, or if they need to attend a medical appointment.

All attendance is at the schools discretion and must be in line with guidance on protective measures for holiday, after school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the COVID-19 outbreak.

9. Safeguarding

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, we would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, education settings should:

- 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

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.

10. Meal Provision

Schools should provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals should be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria.

Schools should also 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

The following template may be used by schools to document their own individual plans. Please be careful to personalise the following;

- Name of school
- Link to remote learning plan as outlined in 'a single child tests positive' – actions column.
- Link to remote learning as outlined in rapidly increasing cases – actions column.
- Link to risk assessment on school website at foot of last page

Olney Infant Academy and Olney Middle School

Covid Outbreak Contingency Plan – Sept. 2021

<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	 <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children MUST attend school unless they are ill. <p>From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.</p> <p>Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.</p>
	 <p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test), <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. • If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Community Covid Risk	Description	Actions
 <p>Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.</p>	<p>There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days.</p> <p>Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable.</p> <p>Hospitalisation/ Deaths due to Covid nationally are low.</p>	<p>No Covid measures are necessary beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminding children of good hand-hygiene. • Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical. • Ensuring Children / Staff to stay at home if they have Covid Symptoms (and to book a PCR test). <p>Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral flow tests until the end of September.</p>
 <p>Rapidly Rising Community Transmission</p>	<p>No current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools. • Local Public Health /Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ national infection wave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilation of classrooms increased & handwashing supervised. • Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced. • Staff-room capacity is reduced. • Whole-school assemblies are replaced with Key Stage assemblies. • Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with Line Managers to review their individual risk assessment & discuss additional protection (e.g. use of face coverings, reduction in movement between classes/ groups).

Number of Cases:

Description:

Actions:

 <p>A single child tests Positive</p>	<p>A single child tests positive for Covid in a class.</p> <p>There are fewer than 5 cases in the year group.</p> <p>No other year groups are affected.</p>	<p>The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it as outlined here. The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts. Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book at PCR Test. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known.</p> <p>Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid Symptoms.</p>
 <p>5 children or staff within a year group test positive within 10 days of each other.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>3 children or staff in a single Class/ Club (or Resource Base) within 10 days.</p>	<p>There have been 5 cases of Covid across a year group within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children.</p>	<p>As above for each positive case.</p> <p>The school will discuss the outbreak with Public Health England, IFTL and MK council and agree strengthening protective measures for 10 school days, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing staff face masks for corridors & communal areas. ○ Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances. ○ Reverting to video-link assemblies in classrooms. ○ Reducing the amount of classes staff work across. ○ Resuming twice-weekly Staff Lateral flow testing.
 <p>Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.</p>	<p>Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school.</p>	<p>Incident Management Team meeting held between the school and Public Health England to agree further measures, for a further 10 school days, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-introducing class bubbles. ● Reverting to class-based school lunches. ○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school. ○ Postponing all non-essential events. ○ Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days considered and will be available on Teams or Google Classroom

- The school will inform parents of any changes to Covid measures should these be needed.
- This document works alongside our risk assessment which is available on the [school website](#).

Further additional documents that support this are

OMS Remote Learning Policy <http://www.olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk/OMSNew/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Remote-Learning-Policy.pdf>

OMS Parent and Carer Remote Education Guide <http://www.olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk/OMSNew/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Remote-Education-guide-for-parents-and-carers-Jan-2021.pdf>

[OIA Remote Learning Policy](#)