

Moss Side Primary School Policy



COVID Outbreak Contingency Plan (Jan 2022)

Since September 2021, schools have been required to prepare for spikes in COVID cases during the course of the academic year. There is a key need to prioritise education and 'In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks'. This plan therefore aims to find a proportionate response to a different period with COVID management, as we learn to live with the virus.

So, what will stay the same?

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for pupils, staff and parents to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.
2. Ensuring good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated as far as is practicably possible.
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?

- All children must attend school unless they are ill.
- **Children under 18 and double-vaccinated adults do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household, or a contact, has COVID.** Instead (as of 22nd December 2021), they will use lateral flow tests for 7 days but can continue coming to school so long as **they have no symptoms and the test result is negative**. NB. Pupils under 5 are not advised to daily test and should book a PCR test if they are a household contact.
- If your child develops **COVID symptoms** at home, **they should stay at home** and you should book them a **PCR test, NOT 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 use LFTs and/or book a PCR test if they show symptoms.

Number of cases	Description	Actions
No cases in school	There have been no cases of COVID within school for 10 school days. Cases of COVID locally are stable.	No COVID measures are necessary beyond... 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). Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral Flow Tests.
A single child tests positive	A single child tests positive for COVID in a class. There are fewer than 4 cases in the class. No other year groups are affected.	The child self-isolates for 10 days (7 days with a negative LFT on day 6 and 7). Remote learning will be provided (please check the website) if they are well enough to complete it. 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 and Trace and advised to take daily LFTs. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known - this could be the whole class. Children and staff do not need to miss school or self-isolate unless they test positive and/or develop symptoms.
High community rates of COVID but no class trigger points reached (see below)	Rates within the community are high, increasing the likelihood of staff absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging the use of face masks in corridors and communal areas for staff ○ Staff-room capacity reduced/ separate areas created ○ Reinforcing social distancing measures for visitors including parents and encouraging mask wearing ○ Reducing high staff congregation if avoidable eg. assemblies ○ Encouraging distancing amongst adults wherever possible ie. at non-teaching times ○ Communicate with staff and parents re. staff absences on a regular basis
4 children or staff within a single class test positive within a 10 day period	There have been 4 cases of COVID across a class within 10 days which could mean that COVID is spreading within that group of children.	As above for each positive case. The school will discuss the outbreak with Lancashire/Public Health England and agree strengthening protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging the use of face masks in corridors and communal areas for staff ○ Staff-room capacity reduced ○ Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances - including having parents in school ○ Reinforcing social distancing measures for visitors including parents ○ Reverting to Key Stage assemblies ○ Reducing the amount of classes staff work across ○ Considering reintroducing zones for children to play in

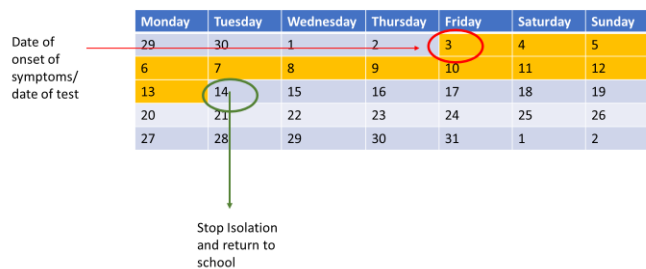
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering return to 'bubbling' of the affected class ○ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff meet with Headteacher to review their individual risk assessment & discuss additional protection
COVID cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.	Despite 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>Seek advice from Lancashire/Public Health England. Agree further measures, including these possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing class bubbles across school and distancing. ○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school. ○ Postponing all non-essential events. ○ Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for a specified amount of time. <i>This will be a last resort but could also be necessary due to staff shortages.</i>

How do you calculate an isolation period?

Copied from Public Health North West

5.3 How is the self-isolation period calculated?

- If a child or staff member is a confirmed case, they must not leave home for **10 days** after the onset of symptoms or the date of test if they have no symptoms. The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, their symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if they did not have symptoms but their first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), their isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th.



NB. Since 14th December 2021, if a case tests negative on an LFT on day 6 and day 7, they can leave isolation on day 8.

How do you access LFTs?

Local pharmacies carry stocks. Alternatively, home deliveries can be requested via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.