

Long Meadow School COVID-19 Risk Assessment Plan
Reflecting changes from Government guidance 26 April 2022

The following risk assessment is for the identification of risk and the subsequent planning to mitigate against these risks following the Government guidance effective from 27th August 2021, a local Public Health update 01.11.21, DfE operational guidance update 29.11.21 daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 14.12.21, updated DfE guidance dated 05 January 2022 and February 2022 and the latest guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Department for Education (DFE).

As we learn to live safely with coronavirus (COVID-19), there are actions we can all take to help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others. These actions will also help to reduce the spread of other respiratory infection, such as flu, which can spread easily and may cause serious illness in some people.

While there is no longer a requirement for all employers to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their statutory health and safety risk assessments, it is important that as an organisation we continue to comply with your legal obligations relating to health and safety, employment and equality duties.

Know which symptoms to look out for

Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. It is important for staff and employers to be aware of symptoms so they can take actions to reduce the risk of spreading the infection to other people. The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar so it is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another infection based on symptoms alone. Most people with COVID-19 will have a relatively mild illness, especially if they have been vaccinated.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

Some people may continue to have a cough or feel tired after other symptoms have improved, but this does not mean that they are still infectious. You can find information about these symptoms on the NHS website

Risk: Transmission Through Contact	Who	Measures taken:
Stepping measure up and down	SLT	We have contingency plans outlining how we would operate if we need to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.
Encourage and enable vaccination	All staff	Vaccinations are very effective at preventing serious illness from COVID-19, flu and other diseases. There is guidance available on the vaccines that are available through the NHS.
Let fresh air in	All staff	<p>Bringing in fresh air to occupied spaces can help to reduce the concentration of respiratory particles, lowering the risk of airborne transmission of respiratory viruses.</p> <p>The risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 and other respiratory infections can be higher in certain places and when doing certain activities. When someone with an infection breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release respiratory particles which can contain the virus. These particles can come into contact with the eyes, nose or mouth or can be breathed in by another person. These virus-containing particles can also land on surfaces and the virus can be passed from person to person via touch. In general, the risk of catching or passing on a respiratory infection is highest when in close contact with someone who is infected.</p> <p>It is also possible to pass on a respiratory infection between people who do not have close contact, especially if they are in a crowded and/or poorly ventilated space where smaller virus particles can stay suspended in the air for some time and where there are more people who might be infectious. The risk of airborne transmission is increased when occupants in a space are participating in energetic activity, such as exercising, shouting, singing or talking loudly.</p>
A child/member of staff has symptoms of a respiratory infection	All staff and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children or adults with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting. • Children or adults who <u>are unwell and have a high temperature</u> should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. • They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough. (See symptom list above)
A parent/carer has sent a child into the setting who is unwell and has said they have had a negative test		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of the negative test result, if the child is unwell and has a high temperature they should not attend until their temperature has returned to normal.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a parent is insistent, but the child is unwell and has a high temperature, we will refuse attendance if it is considered necessary to protect others from possible infection. • If they have mild symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat) and do not have a high temperature they can attend.
A child has had a positive COVID-19 test result	All community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. • If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. • After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. • Children and young people who usually go to school, and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.
A member of staff has tested positive	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any staff who have a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home for 5 days after the day they took the test and avoid contact with other people.
Maintain a clean workplace	All staff	<p>Keeping workplaces clean reduces the risk of infection and can reduce sickness in a workforce. It's especially important to clean surfaces that people touch a lot.</p> <p>Staff are supported to maintain a clean working environment by being provided with cleaning products, soap and hot water, and/or sanitiser.</p>
Contain any outbreak	all community	<p>We have in place baseline infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of any infection, including COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that all staff and children who are unwell do not attend the setting. • ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of national immunisation programmes including coronavirus (COVID-19) and flu • ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in • reinforcing good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning • considering communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of the outbreak or incident and to reinforce key messages, including the use of clear hand and respiratory hygiene measures within the setting such as E-Bug
Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school following the latest government guidelines	children and families SLT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils must attend school • If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, school to discuss their concerns and provide reassurance of the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk in school • Schools is clear with parents that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc)

Risk- Other risks identified		
Poor ventilation	children and staff	<p>Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission. This happens when people breathe in small particles (aerosols) in the air after someone with the virus has occupied an enclosed area. When our school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. These can be achieved by a variety of measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mechanical ventilation systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. Systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if not, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply. ● Natural ventilation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening windows (in cooler weather windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space) and opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary external opening doors may also be used (as long as they are not fire doors and where safe to do so). ○ To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature we will consider opening high-level windows in colder weather in preference to low level to reduce draughts increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied (for example, between classes, during break and lunch, when a room is unused) providing flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct draughts ○ Heating will be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained particularly in occupied spaces.
Maintain a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene to mitigate risk of transmission	All staff	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● continued frequent cleaning of rooms or shared areas that are used by different groups ● frequently touched surfaces continued being cleaned more often than normal ● encouraging pupils to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet ● Cleaning staff briefed and monitored by MB ● Provide tissues for classrooms