



The Collett School COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Date Implemented: 25 September 2021

Date Reviewed: 26 January 2022

Review Period: Annually or as required

Staff Responsibility: Stephen Houlton-Allen

Date for Next Review: August 2022

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1.1 Introduction

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

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. The Prime Minister announced on 19 January that the temporary introduction of Plan B is to end. As a result, the Plan B measures in this guidance for schools are being removed. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

Guidance changes and since 5/1/21, the following have been amended. See [dfe.gov.uk](https://www.dfe.gov.uk)

- update to tracing close contacts and isolation section to clarify the advice for under 5s
- update to face coverings section to reflect removal of recommendation to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas
- update to when an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test section to clarify isolation expectations in boarding schools
- update to mandatory certification section to reflect that this will no longer be in place from 27 January
- update to workforce section to reflect that government is no longer advising people to work from home if they can

1.2 Mixing and bubbles

The DfE no longer recommends that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that 'bubbles' will not need to be used in schools. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

You should make sure your contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education

1.3 To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school.

Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:

- There are 2 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
- If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC) – Presently Omicron (December 2021)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Seeking public health advice

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. Head of School will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by contacting the Local Authority Covid Response Team (COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

3. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people are advised to follow current guidance for all people unless they have a specific notification from their specialist. DfE update 9/12/21

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

4. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups
- Limit Residential educational visits
- Move open mornings online
- Transition or taster days moved online
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Testing, including the use of an asymptomatic test site (ATS)
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

5.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning Policy.

The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for pupils eligible for benefits- related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

5.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities and wraparound care during termtime and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

5.4 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by phoning 07383435549.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, another senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home

➤ Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision