

UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COLLEGE – LIVING WITH COVID FROM 1st APRIL 2022

Location: Birkenhead Sixth Form College, CH43 8SQ	Date assessment undertaken 1 st April 2022	Assessment undertaken by: Jeanne Fairbrother and Paula Blakemore, Vice Principal
Activity or situation: Full Opening of College 1st April 2022	Review date: On-going	Signature: <i>Paula Blakemore</i>

Background information

From 1 April, the government's guidance on [living with COVID-19](#) replaces the DfE's [operational guidance for schools](#).

This applies to all Colleges.

Legislation and guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974

Management of H&S at Work Regulations 1999

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

N.B. All risk assessments referred to within this document have been revised and are available on our website .

The Risk Assessment is a 'living document' that is kept under continual review with a hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk of coronavirus to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

Area of Control	Control Measures	Further actions?	Implemented by (initials)
The need to have an adequate outbreak management/contingency plans to allow for stepping measures up and down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College has a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Contingency Plan risk assessment. (also known as an outbreak management plan) if restrictions need to be implemented due to COVID 19 variants outbreak. • The College will only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider attendance restrictions as a last resort ○ Keep measures to the minimum number of groups possible ○ Keep measures for the shortest amount of time possible 		SMT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College will take extra steps to manage the transmission of COVID-19 and seek public health advice if the number of positive cases reaches a certain threshold. The College will follow measures recommended by the Local Authority, Director of Public Health and local protection teams (HPTs) as part of the outbreak management responsibilities. The College has updated its Emergency Plan in line with April 1st DfE guidance : Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children’s social care settings which includes public health emergencies . The College will refer to UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire & Merseyside PHE contact 0344 225 0562 		
Face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and students should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of College, including on transport to and from College. College may be advised by a director of public health that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by students, staff and visitors, unless exempt). The College has contingency plans that cover this possibility. 		SMT
Ensuring good hygiene & cleaning standards in College to reduce risk of transmission.	<p>Hand hygiene -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College will continue to ensure that staff & students maintain high standards of hand hygiene. Suitable facilities are provided for individuals to wash/sanitise their hands regularly <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> College will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents with a focus on frequently touched areas. 	.	SMT
Events in College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College will complete a separate risk assessment for any events held in College following the latest UKHSA guidance 		H&S Coordinator

<p>Ventilation - ensuring all occupied spaces are well ventilated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the College is in operation, it is well ventilated with comfortable teaching environments. • Poorly ventilated spaces have been identified and appropriate mitigation measures put in place. 		Premises Manager
<p>Close contacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 24 February, routine contact tracing will end. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. • Local health teams continue to use contact tracing and provide context-specific advice where they assess this to be necessary as part of their role in managing infectious diseases. • Staff or students who are close contacts should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those whose immune system means they are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, despite vaccination ○ limit close contact with other people especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces ○ wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask if you do need to have close contact with other people, or you are in a crowded place ○ wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitiser 		SMT
<p>Positive case unaware of new guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with a positive test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff for 5 days ○ Students 18 and under, for 3 days • Both students and staff should try to stay home and avoid contact with others if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature or if they feel unwell (returning to school when they feel well enough, and no longer have a high temperature) 		SMT

Asymptomatic testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students are no longer required to carry out twice weekly asymptomatic testing. • Free testing no longer available for Colleges and no longer advised in specialist settings • If there's an outbreak in College, local directors of public health might advise testing for staff, and for students, for a period of time • Spare tests should be kept and only used if advised by local health protection team, local authority or director of public health. 		SMT
People at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from a respiratory infection, including COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • older people • those who are pregnant • those who are unvaccinated • people of any age whose immune system means they are at higher risk of serious illness • people of any age with certain long-term conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College is aware that certain staff and students may be at higher risk becoming seriously unwell from respiratory infections. • People in this category are advised to follow Living safely with respiratory infections including Covid 19 • The College will discuss any concerns with employees and parents/carers. And this may form the basis of a personal risk assessment. • Staff who have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take should continue to follow that advice and advise College. 		SMT