



Outbreak Management Plan September 2021

1. Introduction

As part of the COVID-19 operational guidance for schools after 16th August we are required to have an Outbreak Management Plan in place from September 2021. The plan states the steps we will take if there is an outbreak in school, or if we are required by the Director of Public Health in Lancashire to take additional measures because of a rapid increase in infection rates in the local community.

2. Revised DfE guidance

The link to the revised guidance for all schools is:

[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings)

The link to additional guidance for Pupil Referral Units and other specialist settings is:

[SEND and specialist settings - additional operational guidance: COVID-19 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/guidance/send-and-specialist-settings-additional-operational-guidance-covid-19)

3. Track and Trace

Schools will no longer be required to carry out contact tracing after 16th August 2021. This function will be carried out by the Track and Trace service. Pupils will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are in contact with another pupil who has tested positive, unless they are specifically asked to do so by Track and Trace. This will also apply to staff who have received both doses of the vaccine.

4. What is an outbreak?

An outbreak occurs if there are several positive cases in a setting within a 14-day period. As we are a small setting, we would consider 3 or 4 cases within 14 days to be an outbreak. This would be subject to risk assessment at the time and will depend on the number of pupils and staff affected.

5. Reducing the risk of an outbreak

The Acorns School will continue to maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness, with daily cleaning of all areas. Desks will be wiped down between lessons.

Pupils are asked to wash their hands on arrival to school and to use hand sanitizer throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will continue to be offered in all classrooms and communal areas. Boxes of tissues are supplied in classrooms and pupils are instructed to “catch it, kill it, bin it”.

Windows will be kept open in classrooms and offices to ensure that rooms are well ventilated.

On return to school in September pupils are being invited in over two days (2nd and 3rd of September) and asked to take an LFT test. Staff are asked to take two LFT tests a week, until the end of September 2021.

6. Face Coverings

Pupils and staff will not be expected to wear face masks in classrooms or communal areas from September 2021. However, if there is an outbreak in school, or if we are required by the Director of Public Health in Lancashire to take additional measures because of a rapid increase in infection rates in the local community, then pupils and staff will be expected to wear face masks in both classrooms and communal areas.

7. Bubbles and blended learning

In the event of an outbreak in school, or if we are required to do so by the Director of Public Health, it may be necessary to return to bubbles and blended learning for a short period of time. This will depend on the number of staff and pupils affected.

Because of the nature and size of our setting, bubbles and blended learning would involve pupils following a timetable whereby some lessons are provided face to face in school and some are provided online on our virtual learning platform.

Parents will be contacted by text and letter if it is necessary to move to bubbles and blended learning at short notice.

8. Move to remote education

In the event of an outbreak in school, it may be necessary to return to remote education for a short period of time. This will depend on the number of staff and pupils affected.

The Acorns School has successfully operated a virtual learning platform during lockdowns. This offers timetabled online lessons to pupils via Microsoft Teams. All pupils are offered a suitable device to access remote learning. Where parents decide that they do not want pupils to participate in online lessons, suitable alternative work will be provided via paper packs.

Parents will be contacted by text and letter if it is necessary to move to remote learning at short notice.

9. Vulnerable students

All pupils at The Acorns School are considered to be vulnerable. In the event of a move to remote education, pastoral staff will make daily welfare contact via Teams or by phone. If staff are unable to make contact with pupils and families a home visit will be carried out.

All welfare checks are logged by staff and risk assessed on a daily basis by members of SLT who have safeguarding training. Any concerns will be logged on CPOMs and the appropriate action taken. This may involve multiple agencies.

10. How long would outbreak measures last?

Outbreak measures would last for 10 days in the case of an outbreak in school, or for as long as instructed if we are required by the Director of Public Health in Lancashire to take additional measures because of a rapid increase in infection rates in the local community.

J Hodson

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