



Asymptomatic Testing Site RISK ASSESSMENT FROM JANUARY 2021

Location: The Birkenhead Park School, CH43 4UY	Date assessment undertaken 01/3/21	Assessment undertaken by: Lyndsey Weekes
Activity or situation: Lockdown in Spring Term 2021 and reopening of school from 8.3.2021	Review date: on-going	Signature: <i>Lyndsey Weekes</i>

Overview

This Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with the whole-school Risk Assessment dated 04.03.2021 and all control measures set out therein will continue. It reflects government guidance issued since 7 January 2021 :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950510/School_national_restrictions_guidance.pdf and
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

The school will remain open with normal business hours with a reduced number of staff on site to support the keyworker and vulnerable group who are attending school. The remote learning offer will deliver a full timetable for all students running virtually via Microsoft Teams. All usual school operations will be maintained, including attendance. Vulnerable students can attend school to access on-line learning and be safeguarded by staff. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-schools-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

This Risk Assessment reflects the increase in infections in January 2021 and the consequent restrictions on attendance to reduce the overall number of contacts in our community given the intense pressure on the NHS. Limiting attendance does not suggest that school has become significantly less safe given the stringent system of protective measures that remain in place, supported by a new in-house programme of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing. Under this assisted testing model, the school provides results to NHS Test & Trace and until 22 January 2021, in the case of a positive result, individuals had been asked to go home and seek a confirmatory PCR test. This confirmatory test was deemed necessary at low levels of virus prevalence to avoid unnecessary self-isolation from false positive results. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/daily-contact-testing-in-schools-statement-from-phe-and-nhs-tt-about-next-steps/position-statement-regarding-daily-contact-testing-in-schools-from-phe-and-nhs-test-and-trace>

Following advice from Public Health England (PHE), from **Monday 25 January when individuals test positive for Covid using a LFD, this LFD result will trigger the legal duty to self-isolate and to engage with contact tracing.** This means that from 25 January, students or staff testing positive using a LFD at the school will need to immediately self-isolate and to book a PCR test.

The in-house testing programme will continue operate in accordance with guidance from PHE and the Health and Safety Executive, to ensure that the end to end health, safety and infection control risks for mass lateral flow testing have been identified and pre-assessed by the school. This asymptomatic rapid testing programme will be managed and monitored regularly by the Covid-19 Coordinator, Sarah Crosbie, and the SLT.

All staff and students attending school in the Spring Term will continue to abide by all measures set out in this Risk Assessment and that of September 2020 as these measures create a safe environment where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. All staff and students must follow the system of controls which include continuing to observe good hand and respiratory hygiene including wearing a face-mask in corridors and communal areas; minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing whenever possible ('Hands, Face, Space')

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	Any further action/ altered measures/ notes?	Implemented by: Initials
<p>System of controls: Preventative</p> <p>Asymptomatic testing programme</p> <p>To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death.</p>	<p>Testing school staff, students and visitors: General and clinical activities in the testing area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will implement a programme of rapid, coronavirus testing of staff, visitors and vulnerable students attending school during the national lockdown and also during the reopening phase from 8.3.2021 to identify asymptomatic cases. This testing aims to identify people who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms so could be spreading the infection to others without knowing. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-schools • The school will follow government guidance on this serial contact testing https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak • The school will recruit a trained, testing workforce who will provide Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid tests which will produce a result in around 30 minutes. These are quick, safe and easy to use. • Staff and students will swab themselves following government guidance on how to do the test. There will be a trained person supervising them. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf. • If at any point a member of staff or a student tests positive, they will need to leave school and follow the self-isolation guidelines (currently 10 days). https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/ • Students whom are over 16 can give consent to testing themselves but should discuss their participation with a parent or guardian first. • This rapid testing programme will further reduce the risk of transmission and it is implemented in addition to the usual control measures such as washing hands regularly, face coverings and social distancing ('Hands, Face, Space'). 		<p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No physical handling of documents to staff and students except barcodes and LFD test kits. 		
<p>System of controls: Preventative</p> <p>Asymptomatic rapid testing programme</p> <p>To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death among the Covid Testing Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Covid Testing Team have completed the relevant on-line training modules for their specified role and are familiar with the 'Schools and Colleges Handbook' and the 'How To Guide'. The testing site has non-porous flooring and is well lit with good air flow. Staff and students will maintain a 2m distance with staff on the registration desk All staff and students who are being tested will maintain one-way direction of travel. Each swabbing/sample collection bay is a minimum of 2m apart. Each swabbing/sample collection bay has a processing desk close by-no more than 1m. All processing desks are more than 2m apart. The recording desk is at least 2m away from the processing desks. There is a clear division between the swabbing and processing areas which is clearly demarcated and test subjects must not enter the processing area. Each swabbing/sample collection bay is cleaned by the test subject following the test using disinfectant wipes/disposable cloth and spray provided. All surfaces that the test subject has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including all potentially contaminated and frequently touched areas such as a chair or mirror. Disposable wipes/cloths or paper roll/disposable mop heads with disinfectant spray will be used to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and cleaners will work on the principle of one site, one wipe, in one direction. Any wipes, cloths, roll and disposable mop heads used for cleaning must be disposed of and should be placed in the clinical waste bins. If there is a spillage on a testing site, which could include vomit or bodily fluids, the surrounding area must be evacuated and cleaned immediately and cleaning staff must change their gloves and apron after cleaning a spillage. The lab test kit contains chemical components which do not have any hazard labels associated with them and the manufacturer states that there are no hazards anticipated under conditions of use as described in other product literature. When handling the lab test kit, appropriate PPE will be supplied which includes nitrile gloves which meet the Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and these are to be used at all times when handling the extraction solution. Safety glasses with side shields which are tested and approved under 		<p>SLT</p> <p>Premises Team</p> <p>Covid Testing Team</p> <p>Premises Team</p> <p>Premises Team</p> <p>Covid Testing Team</p> <p>Covid Testing Cleaner</p> <p>Covid Testing Cleaner</p> <p>Covid Testing Cleaner</p> <p>Covid Testing Cleaner</p> <p>Covid Testing Team</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and test materials will be handled by the Premises Team who will move large stocks as required following basic manual handling training. 		
<p>System of controls:</p> <p>Response to any infection</p> <p>Contact with someone suffering from coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will ensure understanding of management of a confirmed case and follow latest PHE guidance and the NHS test and trace process If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, which sets out that they should self-isolate for that day and the following 10 full days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). If staff or students have any of the symptoms below, they are advised to get a test at a testing site and then self-isolate if the result is positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diarrhoea A persistent headache Fever and chills Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing Fatigue Muscle or body aches Sore throat Congestion or runny nose Nausea or vomiting Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate starting from the day the individual's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full days. School has ensured staff and the parents/carers of students understand that they must be ready & willing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book a PCR test if they are displaying symptoms. Provide details of close contacts if they test positive for coronavirus COVID 19 or asked by NHS test & Trace. Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with anyone who tests positive, or of someone in their household has symptoms, or if they or someone in their household has travelled from abroad. 		<p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the situation is not straightforward and school needs help in making an assessment of close contacts they will ring the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 option 1 or email Alison Simpson or Jane Harvey. • All staff, students and any persons likely to come onto the school site will be informed that they must not come into school if they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus but should arrange to be tested immediately at a local test centre: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance • If a symptomatic person comes into school, they will be sent home immediately and isolated in the designated First Aid Room until they can be picked up. 999 will be called if they are seriously ill. • In the case of a symptomatic student who needs to be supervised before being picked up by their parent/carer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will be isolated in the designated First Aid Room with an open window for ventilation • If they need to use a bathroom whilst awaiting collection, they will use the toilet on the main staircase which will be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else. • If a distance of 2m can't be maintained, supervising staff will wear a fluid-resistant surgical mask • If contact is necessary, supervising staff will also wear disposable gloves and a disposable apron • If there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, such as from coughing, spitting or vomiting, supervising staff will also wear eye protection • Supervising staff will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after the student has been picked up. • A deep clean will take place in the areas that the symptomatic person has been in, and PPE will be disposed of properly, following decontamination guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings • If the school becomes aware that a student or a staff member has tested positive for coronavirus, the school will follow the guidance in relation to early outbreak management: https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team • To help with this, records (including seating plans) will be kept of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The students and staff • Any close contact that takes place between students and staff in different groups • Close contact means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct close contact – face-to-face contact with an infected person for any length of time, within 1 metre, including: 		<p>SLT</p> <p>First Aiders</p> <p>First Aiders</p> <p>First-Aiders</p> <p>Premises Team</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>SLT</p>
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