

COVID CONTINGENCY AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN - OUSEDALE

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This plan has been created in line with the latest government advice regarding contingency planning as set out in the DfE's 'COVID -19 Contingency Framework: Education and childcare' and 'Schools coronavirus (COVID -19) operational guidance' documents, but also with reference to the Milton Keynes Outbreak Management Plans (version 4), released to schools on 1st September 2021. The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to stay open as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID - 19) pandemic. Any restrictions on education would only be as a last resort and should only be initiated following a ministerial decision on a case-by-case basis.

Ousedale School will ensure this plan is updated in line with national and local government guidelines regarding the operation of schools during local lockdowns. This plan covers all staff, and pupils at Ousedale School.

1. The aim of this Contingency and Outbreak Management Plan

If the local area (Olney or Newport Pagnell) or each campus sees an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus (COVID -19) infection rates and existing measures in our community have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures to implement to help contain the spread. These measures may involve implementing a number of restrictions (temporary or longer term), which could include the partial closure of either campus or both campuses in our area. Measures may also be necessary to help minimise the impact from new coronavirus variants.

This document outlines how Ousedale will operate if further restrictions are implemented. Ousedale School will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team, as well as any other key organisations. This is a live document that will be reviewed by the SLT of Ousedale School, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, as and when the situation develops.

The Contingency and Outbreak plan is designed to act as a containment measure where:

- There is an extremely high prevalence of coronavirus.
- Other measures have already been implemented.
- There is a need to minimise the impact from a new coronavirus variant.

The purpose of this Contingency and Outbreak Plan is to summarise how Ousedale School will...

- Prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID - 19)
- Encourage vaccination for all those eligible – currently this should be everyone 16 yrs. and over, including pregnant and clinically vulnerable staff and children between 12-15 years with certain underlying health conditions or living in households with immunosuppressed individuals
- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes for COVID-19
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Complete asymptomatic LFD testing for all staff, secondary aged pupils and advising people with COVID - 19 symptoms not to attend but to isolate and take a PCR test www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

2. Restrictions to attendance

Restrictive measures, of the kind set out in the contingency framework, must not be implemented by schools without the explicit agreement of the DfE. The government and DfE has advised that all schools should continue to operate as normal and that all pupils should attend school unless required to self-isolate. Ousedale School has already shared its expectations regarding school attendance in parent/carer communications sent and we will continue to expect students (apart from those with COVID - 19) to attend school. We will be keeping a careful log of positive COVID - 19 cases within the pupil and staff population, either to support PHE and/ or our own systems for monitoring any outbreaks.

Ousedale School will not be offering remote learning unless we are placed into a local or national lockdown as we do not want to encourage or facilitate students being able to miss attending school in person. Remote learning will be available to students who are self-isolating.

Restricting attendance in any form will only be used as a last resort, initiated following a ministerial decision. Where restrictions to attendance are implemented following government advice, they will be kept to a minimum, allowing for the maximum number of pupils to attend education; however, in all circumstances, priority will be given to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers to attend full time.

As part of their outbreak management responsibilities, Local Authorities (LA's), Directors of Public Health and HPTs may advise individual settings or a cluster of closely linked settings to limit attendance in one of the ways described in this section.

Our statutory aged secondary and sixth form pupils if the contingency framework is implemented, the setting will only allow the following pupils to attend on-site provision:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers
- Pupils who require access to specialist equipment, where advised by the DfE
- Pupils who were due to take external exams this academic year, were advised by the DfE that attendance is mandatory, pupils will attend according to their usual timetable. In circumstances where the school is unable to provide its usual provision and issues with adequate staffing ratios, the DfE has advised that the school continues to deliver specified provision as close to normal as practicable, as soon as possible. High-quality remote education will be provided for all pupils not in attendance, in line with the Remote Learning Policy.
- The school will lift restrictions as soon as it is advised by the government that it is appropriate to do so.

3. Infection prevention and control

The latest DFE Guidance outlines that:

- The 'bubbles', social distancing, staggered start and finish times have ceased at present, although may be introduced at any point where thresholds are met.
- Twice weekly LFD testing at home for secondary students to continue (this will be reviewed at the end of September).
- Being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. This has also resulted in widening inequalities
- It is absolutely essential that all settings do everything possible to help staff and pupils attend their place of learning. This includes allowing staff or pupils to wear masks if they choose to and discussing with them any measures that may make them feel more safe to attend

Any member of the Ousedale school community who displays symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate and encouraged to get a PCR test. Tests can be booked online or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. Critical workers, including school staff, have priority access to testing.

The latest DFE guidance states that...

- Symptomatic people and PCR positive cases still need to isolate
- LFD testing twice weekly to identify asymptomatic cases continues for staff and secondary/college students
- LFD positive test result = isolate, unless followed by a negative PCR within 2 days
- Contacts who are double vaccinated (more than 14 days past their second dose) and children under 18yrs & 6 months, do not need to isolate and are advised to take a PCR test
- Contact tracing will be done by NHS Test & Trace, who may contact settings for support in exceptional circumstances
- Contacts self-declare their age and vaccination status on the COVID-19 app or to Test & Trace.

If a variant of coronavirus classed as a variant of concern (VOC) is identified within the school's geographical area, the school will partake in targeted testing by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to help suppress and control any possible new cases. The school will also adhere to advice from Directors of Public Health in relation to the temporary reintroduction of face coverings.

If a number of individuals test positive, the school will contact and follow advice from the local HPT, which may include pupils/ classes/ year groups to self-isolate. The setting will notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases, within 14 days, be that a child or staff member, in the

setting through the usual notification channels. We will also make Ofsted aware if the setting is advised to close as a result.

The Milton Keynes LA Contingency and Outbreak Management states that Local Public Health Team will support you specifically if any of the following thresholds are reached:

- 5 children, pupils, or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or 10% of children, pupils, or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period (e.g. 3 cases in a class of 30). (whichever is reached first)

OR

- If a pupil, or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19, this could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern and advice should be sought urgently

If Ousedale School has met the thresholds for an outbreak, these are some of the potential additional temporary measures that could be introduced to minimise further cases. These will normally be considered and discussed at an Incident Management Team, called following discussion between the setting and the local public health team.

The table below is a part of the Milton Keynes LA Contingency and Outbreak Management Plan.

Actions	Decision generally made by
Identify a group that is likely to have mixed closely but a group will rarely mean a whole campus or school or year group. An example may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tutor group or subject class • a friendship group mixing at break times and/ or outside of school • a sports team • a group in an after school activity/ session 6 	SLT and then reported to public health
Face coverings in all buildings except classrooms and outside - time limited (2 weeks and review)	Director of Public Health in conjunction with the setting
Face coverings for staff and pupils in all classrooms, teaching areas, canteens and school buildings Large gatherings cancelled e.g. assemblies/ after school events Canteens closed (grab and go only)	Director of public health in conjunction with the setting

Visitors/ parents & carers not allowed on site – time limited (2 weeks and review)	
Enhanced/continued home testing or on-site asymptomatic testing (LFD or PCR if VOC)	Incident Management Team
Pause all educational visits, open days, transition or taster days, parental attendance, performances	SLT in conjunction with public health
In extreme cases introducing short term attendance restrictions in both or either campuses, such as sending home a class or year group (priority to keep socially vulnerable children and children of critical workers in) Provide high quality remote learning for anyone who is unable to attend	SLT in conjunction with
Reintroduction of shielding	Ministers

4. Transport

Pupils and staff attending school will be encouraged to walk or cycle wherever possible and to avoid public transport. If pupils and staff need to use public transport, they will be reminded that those over the age of 11 are required to wear a face covering while travelling.

5. Teaching and learning

If restrictions to on-site education are required, leading to the temporary or partial closure of the school or a campus to pupils, Ousedale will offer immediate access to high quality remote education for all pupils who are required to remain at home. All remote learning will be delivered in line with the school's Remote Learning Policy.

Teachers and Associate staff will ensure lessons are suitable to the class group's age and ability, inclusive for all pupils, and will be adapted, where necessary, to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

6. Returning to school

The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so. Prior to the return of more pupils and staff, all relevant risk assessments will be reviewed. After a period of self-isolation, or the relaxation of restrictions, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school. The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

7. Exams and assessments

The school will remain open for any exams and assessments planned in line with current government guidance, Ofqual and JCQ announcements. Wherever necessary, we will implement additional mitigations to ensure the safe delivery of exams and assessments, which may include:

- Wearing face coverings in all areas.
- Two-metre spacing between all desks.
- Additional controls for candidates who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. This may include measures such as seating them in a separate room to other candidates or, in exceptional circumstances, at the candidate's home.

8. Safeguarding

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective during periods of restricted attendance is a key priority. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include provisions for keeping pupils safe during the coronavirus pandemic, both at home and in school – we will continue to follow these procedures for pupils who remain at home, where appropriate, until all pupils are able to return to school.

9. Food provision

We will provide meal options for all pupils who are attending school. We will provide vouchers to eligible pupils who are not attending school, where they:

- Are self-isolating.
- Have had symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus.
- Are not attending due to the implementation of local restrictions advised by the government.

10. Communication

The school will communicate its plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents/carers, including in relation to:

- Opening arrangements.
- Access for specific targeted groups where applicable, such as certain year groups, vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.
- Any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of our risk assessments.
- The arrangements for remote working.

All relevant stakeholders will be kept up-to-date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops. If any member of the school community wishes to discuss any concerns relating to the school's provision during this period, they should contact the following as appropriate:

- Staff – their line manager
- Pupils – their tutor or PAL
- Parents – the headteacher

11. Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed continually, by SLT, in line with guidance from the government and Public Health England (PHE). Any changes to the plan will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.