

CONTINGENCY PLANNING SEPTEMBER 2021

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GUIDANCE		Action Required
Testing	<p>There is the possibility of increased use of testing by staff and, where they are already being offered testing, for pupils and students. We may be advised on more frequent testing, or on the reintroduction of asymptomatic test sites (ATS). These measures may be advised: • for an individual setting only, by DsPH as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management, or • for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and directors of public health decide it is appropriate These additional testing measures would need to be agreed with us and we would be consulted to identify what support may be needed to do this. We will consider how ATS could be implemented in a way that does not negatively impact the education we provide to their pupils and students. DsPH should keep DfE informed of all cases where they are considering recommending ATS for an education setting, via their RPT and RSC.</p>	MOVE BACK TO MARCH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR TESTING
FACE-COVERINGS	<p>There is the possibility that it may be advised that face coverings should temporarily be worn in settings in their area. This may include face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms, for pupils, students and staff. Any guidance will allow for reasonable exemptions for their use. These measures may temporarily be advised: • for an individual setting only, by DsPH as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management, or • for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package, or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and DsPH decide it is appropriate In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission.</p>	MOVE BACK TO JUNE/JULY RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FACE COVERINGS
SHIELDING	<p>Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or VoC that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list (SPL), ministers can agree to reintroduce shielding. Shielding would be considered in addition to other measures to address the residual risk to people on the SPL, once the wider interventions are taken into account. Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government.</p>	MOVE BACK TO MARCH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SHIELDING OR MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT DEPENDING ON ADVICE

OTHER MEASURES	There is a possibility we are advised to limit: • residential educational visits • open days • transition or taster days • parental attendance in settings • live performances in settings. Local authorities, DsPH and HPTs may recommend these precautions in individual settings or across an entire area.	MOVE BACK TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT.
ATTENDANCE RESTRICTIONS	High quality face-to-face education remains a government priority. Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort: • for individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission; or • across an area, on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS. In all circumstances, priority should continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables. Where measures include attendance restrictions, DfE may advise on any other groups that should be prioritised. We will be prepared if advised, temporarily, to limit attendance and should ensure that highquality remote education is provided to all pupils or students not attending.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT
REMOTE LEARNING	High-quality remote learning in schools, further education and higher education settings should be provided for all pupils and students if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home; or • attendance at their setting has been temporarily restricted On-site provision should in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. If settings have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, we will discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT
EDUCATION WORKFORCE	If restrictions on child, pupil and student attendance are ever needed, we will return to our rota system and consider guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT

SAFEGUARDING AND DSLs	There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners: • local authorities • clinical commissioning groups • chief officers of police If attendance restrictions are needed in any education or childcare setting, and all local safeguarding partners will be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely. All settings must continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including: • Keeping children safe in education • Working together to safeguard children • Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. Led by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) we will review our child protection policy so that it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective. We will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT
VULNERABLE CHILDREN	Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, we will: • follow up with the parent or carer, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), to explore the reason for absence and discuss their concerns • encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate • focus the discussions on the welfare of the child or young person and ensuring that the child or young person is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home • have in place procedures to maintain contact, ensure they are able to access remote education support, as required, and regularly check if they are doing so If settings have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT
TRANSPORT	Transport services to education settings should continue to be provided as normal where children are attending education settings. The guidance on transport to schools and colleges during the COVID-19 pandemic guidance remains in place.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT
SCHOOL MEALS	We will provide meal options for all pupils who are in school. Meals will be available free of charge to pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria. We will continue to provide free school meals support in the form of vouchers for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school because they have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves.	RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Any attendance restrictions will be reflected in the visits risk assessment and we will consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only students who are attending the setting should go on an educational visit. We will should consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

RETURN TO MAIN RISK ASSESSMENT