



BHSA COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan

As part of the return to education for the 21/22 academic year, the DfE's published COVID guidance states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if advised of changing Covid situations in their area.

There may be need to introduce measures that impact on how teaching is delivered to some or all of the students within the school. For example,

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

This plan identifies the measures that Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA) may put in place depending on the local situation and the advice and direction received from the DfE, Public Health Wirral, Public Health England and the GDST Health and Safety team.

This document should always be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID, such as those listed below:

- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

- Actions for schools during the COVID-19 outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

- Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Please note, this is not an exhaustive list and these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance.

General Precautions

Roles

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will coordinate all responses to Covid-19 scenarios. Overall responsibility will rest with the Head, with specific tasks allocated to members of the team depending on availability. SLT will coordinate the reporting of any positive cases to Public Health Wirral and the administration team will coordinate the required communication with parents.

Risk Assessment

The school Covid Risk Assessment will be maintained and reflect the current guidance and procedures in place.

Mixing and Year Bubbles

From September 2021, the school will no longer implement Year group bubbles, as per DfE guidance. However, should there be a local outbreak of Covid-19, the school may elect, or be directed, to undertake a temporary reintroduction of 'bubbles'. Whilst only undertaken on a short term basis, this action would aim to replicate the conditions in place during the 2020/21 academic year and is likely to include measures such as designated break areas for each Year group and separated lunch servings for bubbles.

Face Coverings

Following DfE guidance, the use of face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors, although individuals may elect to wear them. Should local conditions change, the school may, after taking advice, elect to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in limited measures or for the entire school population.

Visitors

Visitors will be able to attend the school site as it returns to normal operations. Sign-in systems will continue to question visitors regarding whether they are experiencing symptoms of Covid prior to permitting access. All visitors will be asked to wear face coverings in communal areas and in meetings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Should the Covid-19 situation deteriorate, then visitors will not be allowed onto the school site.

Cleaning and Hygiene

The school will continue to maintain an enhanced level of cleaning and hygiene. Hand sanitiser and wash units installed at the start of the pandemic will be maintained, and students will continue to be reminded to sanitise their hands.

Actions to be undertaken if there is a confirmed Covid-19 case

If there is one case identified in school, the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- If the individual is within the school environment they are to be isolated from other students and staff immediately until they can be collected by their parent / carer. The Covid Testing Room near main school office is to be used as an isolation location.
- The school will notify Public Health Wirral.
- From Step 4, close contacts will be identified by NHS Track & Trace.
- From 16 August 2021, students under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified by NHS Track & Trace as a close contact of a positive case. These individuals will be advised to take a PCR test.
- Students aged 18 years will be given a four-month period to become vaccinated, at which point they will be treated as adults. Those who elect to not be vaccinated will need to self-isolate.
- Individuals who have been required to self-isolate due to testing positive will be expected to undertake Guided Home Learning.

Additional actions to be undertaken if there are multiple cases of Covid-19

The school will initially act as per the single case scenario until advised otherwise by Public Health Wirral.

Should it be deemed necessary to send individuals or groups of the school population home, then these students will be expected to undertake Guided Home Learning.