



Markeaton Primary School

**COVID 19 Outbreak Management Plan
September 2021**

COVID 19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, 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

This Outbreak Management Plan outlines how Markeaton Primary School would operate if any of the additional measures due to a Variant of Concern were recommended for our setting or area, and how we would implement them.

Guidance

Markeaton Primary School continues to seek guidance from authorities such as:

- National Government Guidance
- COVID-19 Contingency Framework: Education and Childcare June 2021
- Public Health England (PHE)
- Confederation of School Trusts (CST)
- COVID-19 School Risk Assessments

Outbreak

If you have several confirmed cases within 14 days, you may have an outbreak.

Following a positive case, you can reach the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 selecting option 1 for advice on what action you may need to take including additional measures outlined within this plan.

Prioritising Education

- The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people, and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.
- Decision-makers should endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to a minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.
- Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

- Measures affecting education and childcare settings across an area should not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures.
- Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort. Where measures include attendance restrictions, the Department for Education (DfE) may advise on any groups that should be prioritised.
- The Government will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way settings should operate.

Prioritising Certain Year Groups

The DfE has stated that early years and primary settings should be “prioritised to continue to operate as normal”, although they “may advise that other groups should be prioritised”. It is key that DfE guidance is reviewed regularly and the most up to date guidance followed at all times.

Early Years- If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should be allowed to attend unless otherwise advised by the DfE.

Primary Schools- If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend. If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend, unless otherwise advised by the DfE.

Limits on Attendance

- If attendance needs to be restricted further at either phase, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be able to attend.
- Limits on attendance will only ever be considered as a last resort.
- As with other periods of restricted attendance, schools within Derby City will provide high quality remote education for all pupils or those not attending.
- Restrictions on attendance may be advised by local health protection teams for individual settings, groups of children, or clusters of closely linked settings.
- If attendance restrictions are required across an area, the Government will publish detailed operational guidance for schools.
- If restrictions on pupil attendance are needed, the Headteacher will determine the workforce required onsite, and if it is appropriate, for some staff to work remotely. HR guidance will be sought and followed to ensure the appropriate system of controls for attending staff are followed.

Vulnerable Children and Young People

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent from school or remote education, the Headteacher and School Leaders 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 workers (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and School 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 halt onsite provision on public health advice for all children, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.

Additional Measures

This Outbreak Management Plan outlines how Markeaton Primary School would operate if any of additional measures were recommended for the school sites from national guidance due to a Variant of Concern or extended lockdown measures.

Risk assessment controls that could be implemented in the event of changed Government guidance, PHE advice, or identification of a Variant of concern are detailed as appendix 1 to this plan. In the case of any guidance changes or direction from PHE, a revised Risk Assessment will be implemented.

1) Covid-19 Risk Assessment (latest edition found on the school [website](#))

Markeaton Primary School continues to update site specific COVID-19 Risk Assessments in line with national guidance. COVID-19 Risk Assessments are updated in consultation with school leaders, shared with stakeholders, and uploaded regularly to school websites. COVID-19 Risk Assessments will be updated in the event of:

- Changes to National Guidance
- Updates on COVID-19 Roadmap
- Local outbreaks
- School Related Outbreaks
- Variants of Concern

2) Testing

Markeaton Primary School has robust systems in place for staff to undertake twice weekly LFT testing with appropriate reporting mechanisms

- Schools will continue to provide testing kits to staff twice a week and encourage their use
- Additional use of home testing by staff may be advised and will be encouraged by schools
- Secondary school pupils will receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September
- Secondary schools should also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice

3) Face Coverings

Markeaton Primary School will implement/extend the use of face coverings in schools for staff and visitors in cases of Variants of Concern including communal areas and classrooms, as advised by local leaders and teams using data and evidence.

- COVID-19 Risk Assessments will be updated in line with guidance, and parents/carers will be informed of the reintroduction of face coverings
- Operations and site staff will ensure that schools have sufficient stock of PPE including face coverings
- School COVID-19 Risk Assessments still state that all visitors to school sites including parents and contractors are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times

4) Bubbles

The reintroduction of bubbles maybe required in some local areas for a temporary period, to reduce the mixing between groups. This decision will not be taken lightly.

5) Shielding

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak or Variant of Concern 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 considered.

- Risk Assessments will be updated to include shielding and Markeaton Primary School will support individuals with remote working if required.
- **Please note:** Shielding can only be reintroduced by National Government.

6) Education Workforce

Markeaton Primary School will continue to support staff and pupils through individual Risk Assessments and support who are:

- Clinically Vulnerable (CV)
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- Pregnant/Expectant mothers
- BAME

Markeaton Primary School will continue to implement the system of controls set out in the COVID-19 operational guidance for educational settings. The COVID-19 Risk Assessments explain to staff the measures that have been put in place to reduce risks to staff, including how these protective measures have been reviewed as part of an updated workplace risk assessment.

7) Cleaning

Markeaton Primary School continues to follow robust cleaning regimes in schools such as:

- Additional COVID-19 Cleaning staff on site
- Enhanced cleaning of school sites
- Enhanced Touch-Point cleaning processes

Following the identification of the person with COVID-19 symptoms, the cleaning team will clean and disinfect:

- All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with, including objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids; and
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells

In the event of a Variant of Concern or local outbreak cleaning may be enhanced further to include:

- Deep cleans of whole school and specific areas
- Additional cleaning support
- Additional training of cleaners

8) Waste

Markeaton Primary School continues to manage effective waste management on school sites. All waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues), should be:

- Put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. That plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.

- Stored safely and kept away from children. Waste should not be put in communal waste areas for at least 72 hours. It can then be disposed of normally.

9) Infection Prevention and Control Precautions

Infection prevention and control precautions continues to be implemented including:

- Good hand hygiene before entering and after leaving the setting, as well as regularly throughout the day.
- Catch it, kill it, bin it regime.
- Ensuring that everyone (staff and pupils) catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. If a tissue is not available, then the crook of the elbow should be used rather than hands.
- Dispose of tissues promptly in a waste bin and then perform hand hygiene routines.

Other measures

1) Parental attendance in settings-

In the event of a Variant of Concern, parents/carers will be advised to limit their access to site as much as possible.

- Parents/carers or visitors permitted on school site by invitation only and must have an arranged appointment.
- Visitors will be collected from reception as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary waiting.
- All visitors will be expected to wear a face covering and will be informed of this when a meeting is booked. This can be removed in the venue for the meeting if social distancing is possible, but not whilst travelling through the site.
- Where possible conversations with parents/carers staff will be either over the phone, via email, or through MS Teams.
- Parents/carers will not be permitted to attend school sport fixtures or other performance events

2) Performances in settings-

- If the school is planning an indoor or outdoor face-to-face performance in front of a live audience, staff will continue to follow the latest Roadmap guidance, performing arts guidance, and the guidance on delivering outdoor events. Guidance will be sought from H&S Competent Person.
- Performances will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of a Variant of Concern.

3) Open Days-

- In the event of a Variant of Concern, transitional, taster and open days will be managed through the completion of a thorough risk assessment in line with agreed system of controls and align with the advice contained from the Government roadmap out of lockdown. These will be reviewed by H&S Competent Person.

- Open days will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of a Variant of Concern.

4) Events and Proms-

- Outdoor events are generally lower risk. Once the school have undertaken a risk assessment, sought guidance from the H&S Competent Person, and planned the event in line with the system of controls, the school will consider outdoor events (for example a leavers' celebration).
- Events will be reviewed and potentially postponed/cancelled in the event of a Variant of Concern.
- Local authorities, Directors of Public Health (DsPH) and PHE Health Protection Teams (HPTs) may recommend these precautions in one setting, a cluster of settings, or across an entire area.

5) Out-of-School Settings and Wraparound Childcare-

- If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and young people should be allowed to attend. For all other children, parents and carers should only be allowed to access these providers for face-to-face provision for their children for a limited set of essential purposes, such as to allow them to go to or seek work, attend a medical appointment, or undertake education and training.
- Restrictions on attendance may need to vary depending on whether provision will be operating during school term-time and/or school holidays, when schools are otherwise closed to ensure sufficient childcare provision remains available to those that need it most. Therefore, the advice outlined above could be subject to change.
- Further advice will be provided should this be the case. In the meantime, providers should continue to refer to guidance on protective measures for holiday, after school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

6) School Meals-

Markeaton Primary School will continue to facilitate the provision of meal options, in collaboration with the trust catering provider, for all pupils who are in school. Meals will be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who meet the benefits related free school meals eligibility criteria.

Markeaton Primary School will continue to provide free school meals support in the form of meals, lunch parcels or vouchers for pupils who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and who are not attending school because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

Further information is available in the guidance on providing school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Markeaton Primary School will continue to support pupils who are eligible for, and usually receive, free meals even if pupils are studying remotely due to COVID-19.

7) Educational Visits-

Risk Assessments for trips include COVID-19 procedures and are updated following national guidance.

- **Educational Day Visits** were able to resume from 12th April 2021. Any educational day visits must be conducted in line with relevant COVID-secure guidelines and regulations in place at the time and a full risk assessment in relation to all educational visits must be undertaken to ensure they can be undertaken safely. As part of this risk assessment, schools will need to consider what control measures need to be used and follow wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues. School Leaders should consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.
- Educational Day Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of a Variant of Concern.
- Markeaton Primary School will seek appropriate financial assurance from the trip provider to ensure the Trust or the school community are not adversely affected if the trip needs to be deferred or cancelled due to any change in restrictions.

- **Domestic Residential Educational Visits** can be undertaken from 17th May 2021. Any domestic residential educational visits must be conducted in line with relevant COVID-19 guidance and regulations and risk assessments should be undertaken.
- Domestic Residential Educational Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of a Variant of Concern.
- Markeaton Primary School will seek appropriate financial assurance from the visit provider to ensure the Trust or the school community are not adversely affected if the visit needs to be deferred or cancelled due to any change in restrictions.

- **International Visits:** The Government has now published red, amber and green list rules for entering England. Given the complexities attached to international travel at this stage of the pandemic, the Trust Board & CEO will consider all potential international trip requests.
- International Visits will be reviewed and potentially postponed in the event of a Variant of Concern or guidance from Government.
- Markeaton Primary School will seek appropriate financial assurance from the trip provider to ensure the Trust or the school community are not adversely affected if the trip needs to be deferred or cancelled due to any change in restrictions.