

## Introduction

This risk assessment has been prepared to assist school's duty holders in their effective management of the risk to people from Coronavirus (COVID-19), drawing on guidance published by [The Department for Education](#) and [Public Health England](#) . Schools have been directed by the Department of Education to follow their published guidance rather than locally assess risk.

## Context

Coronavirus COVID-19 may be present in minute water droplets that are expelled from the body through sneezing, coughing, talking and breathing. Transmission occurs directly between people when virus expelled by an infected person comes into contact with the mouth and/or nose and/or eyes of another person. Transmission also occurs indirectly when the virus can be transferred to the hands and from there to surfaces. It can survive on surfaces for a period after transfer (depending on such things as the surface type, its moisture content and temperature).

Most people infected with the virus experience disease with mild or moderate symptoms, however a significant minority become severely unwell requiring hospitalisation and for some people the disease may present long lasting, life changing consequences, or is fatal.

## Basic Principles.

The control measures follow the basic principles outlined in the current advice provided by government. Around safe social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, self-awareness of risk groups (clinically extremely vulnerable, clinically vulnerable, general population) and of symptoms of high temperature and / or new continuous cough and/or loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell as a symptom. If you have these symptoms, no matter how mild, book a test at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or order or book a test by calling 119, as soon as possible.

## The Risk Assessment.

This document is intended to be a living document, It will therefore be subject to regular review and revision as change occurs and assessed needs direct in order to ensure its continued adequacy, in so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so. If events change on the day, dynamic assessment based upon professional judgement will inform any additional control measures.

## Remember - Hands. Face. Space. Ventilation.

**Hands** Wash your hands well and often.

**Face** Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

People are expected to and recommended to wear a face covering in crowded or enclosed spaces, where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school.

**Space** Reduce the number of people you come into contact with.

**Ventilation** Ensure workplaces are adequately ventilated preferably with a wholesome supply of fresh air, or by mechanical ventilation or a combination of both.


## Consultation.

Relevant duty holders should consult with their workforce and trade union representatives as part of putting measures in place.

Involving them promotes ownership and demonstrates that you take their health and safety seriously.

## Equalities.

The risk assessment includes specific review of the potential higher risks to people on basis of gender, ethnicity and disability. (See Section 8)

Risk Assessment	Managing COVID-19 for Spring Term 2022	
Task/Activity:	Implementing Protective Measures to Mitigate against Covid-19 Infection	
School	Kirklevington Primary School	
	V7.2 (04 <sup>th</sup> January 2022)	

Quality Assurance Check by Manager / Line Manager	As directed by the Department of Education	Date:	04/01/22
---	--	-------	----------

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
1. Community level of Risk	<p>In the event of notification of 'local lockdown' or national lockdown being reintroduced, the school will close immediately.</p> <p>In the case that the school closes, due to lockdown or it is unable to remain open for safety or capacity reasons, inform the LA using TellUsOnce <a href="http://www.stockton.gov.uk/tellusonce">www.stockton.gov.uk/tellusonce</a></p>	<p>Where the infection rate locally, is above 1, and the Council are advising their schools not to reopen, the Trust schools will close, in step with the Council.</p> <p>The Trust will follow the <a href="#">DfE national guidance</a> for the return to school in Sept. This is reflected in this updated Risk Assessment V7.0</p> <p>The Trust is in regular contact with Stockton Council via the Director of Children's Services and Stockton Public Health Team.</p>	<p>CEO and Gold Command</p> <p>DFO</p> <p>Head / DFO</p>	On going	
2. Dept. of Education Contingency Framework.	<p>The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings and sets out that local authorities, Directors of Public Health and PHE health protection teams are responsible for managing localised outbreaks and that they play an important role in providing support and advice to education and childcare settings.</p> <p>Public Health England may produce an outbreak plan template and that would then supersede this document.</p>	<p><b>In the event of a sustained outbreak the school will consult Stockton Public Health.</b></p> <p><b>We will revert to some to all of the controls set out in the Summer Term 2021 Risk Assessment. (See Annex A)</b></p> <p><b>The Risk Assessment will then be updated to reflect those more stringent controls.</b></p> <p><b>Additional controls introduced by DfE (2<sup>nd</sup> Jan) see Annex A</b></p>	<p>Gold Command and CEO</p> <p>DFO</p>	<p>As necessary</p> <p>Actioned From 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021</p> <p>Actioned 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 22</p>	

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
	<p>The <a href="#">Contingency framework</a>, may be supported by further control measures which may include amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changing ways of working</li> <li>• improved ventilation</li> <li>• enhanced targeted cleaning</li> <li>• strengthening communications</li> <li>• temporary reinstatement of face coverings for staff</li> <li>• increased frequency of testing</li> </ul>		<p>Head of school Gold Command</p>	<p>From 10<sup>th</sup> November School outbreak actions include request for PCR tests, isolating group of children where possible</p>	
<p>3. Additional local measures</p>	<p>The school shall work with the local health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak</p> <p><b>Additional local measures introduced in Oct21 and remain in place.</b></p>	<p>If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, the school shall follow any instruction provided by Director of Public Health including any temporary reintroduction of some control measures.</p>	<p>Gold Command</p>	<p>Done Oct 21 Renewed Nov 21</p>	
<p>4. Thresholds for triggering extra action</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Operational Guidance</a> sets out the measures that all education settings should have in place to manage transmission of COVID-19 day to day.</p> <p>For most settings it will make sense to think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is because it could indicate transmission is happening in the setting.</p> <p>The thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned.</p> <p><b>For most education and childcare settings, thresholds for outbreaks are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test</li> </ul>	<p>Stockton Public Health or national guidance may determine that further additional action should be taken.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened Communication</li> <li>• Temporarily Reinstating face Coverings</li> <li>• Reinstating On-site LFD Testing</li> <li>• Increased Frequency of Testing.</li> </ul> <p>In the event of a sustained outbreak the school will consult Stockton Public Health. We will revert to some to all of the controls set out in the Summer Term 2021 Risk Assessment.</p> <p><b>Maintain a log of cases within school (staff and pupils).</b></p> <p><b>Extra actions enacted Oct 21 and Jan 22.</b></p>	<p>Gold Command CEO  Stockton Public Health          Head</p>		

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
	<p>positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or</p> <p><b>10% of one consistent group</b></p> <p>Please continue to report cases into the local team at <a href="http://www.digital.stockton.gov.uk/covid19-contactus">www.digital.stockton.gov.uk/covid19-contactus</a></p>	<p>When the thresholds are reached, education and childcare settings should review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place.</p> <p>Settings should also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes</li> <li>• ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort</li> <li>• One-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment.</li> </ul> <p>From the autumn term, the Stockton-on-Tees Public Health team will continue to be available for advice, guidance and management of outbreaks.</p>	<p>Stockton Public Health</p> <p>DFO / Heads</p>	<p>Autumn term</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>5. Schools clinically extremely vulnerable workforce</p>	<p>Clinically extremely vulnerable people should currently attend school or their place of work unless specifically advised against this by their clinician or GP.</p>	<p>Further details of CEV people available at Appendix 1.</p> <p><b><i>Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff will be individually risk assessed, taking into account the national guidance.</i></b></p>	<p>HR Manager</p>		
<p>6. Clinically extremely vulnerable children.</p>	<p>The government announced on the 26th August that Children and young people will no longer be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. An update from the Department for Education confirmed that Clinical studies have shown that children and young people, including those originally considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), are at very low risk of serious illness if they catch the virus</p>	<p>All children and young people should continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else, which can be found at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>.</p> <p>For a very few individual children specific clinical advice may be given and this should continue to be followed.</p>	<p>Heads</p>		



Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
8. Equality	<p>All staff, as duty holders, shall have regard for the particular needs of different groups of workers or individuals. For example, those with underlying health conditions, pregnant staff and those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Managers must consider and put into place any particular measures or reasonable adjustments to take account of the employer's obligations under the Equality Act.</p>	<p>The Trust has considered on case by case basis any additional risk arising from Covid19 to BME staff and staff with disabilities.</p> <p>The Trust will continue to consult staff and Trade Unions.</p>	<p>All staff where necessary</p> <p>Head HR Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
9. Mental wellbeing	<p>Staff and pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood.</p> <p>You can access useful links and sources of support <a href="#">on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools.</a></p>	<p>Useful links and sources of support on promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools is available <a href="#">here.</a></p> <p>HR will provide support and guidance on a case by case basis to staff as required.</p> <p>Confidential counselling line (MIND) is available to all staff.</p>	<p>Heads</p> <p>HR manager</p>		
10. Wearing face coverings	<p>Face coverings are no longer advised by the DfE for pupils, staff and visitors, either in classrooms or communal areas.</p> <p>No pupil or student should be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.</p> <p>We shall make reasonable adjustments in consultation with parents and children to support disabled pupils to ensure they can access education successfully.</p> <p><b>Staff to wear face coverings in school in communal areas. Updated guidance 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b></p>	<p>People are expected to and recommended that face coverings are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where they may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.</p> <p>In the event of an outbreak, the Director of Public Health may advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).</p> <p>The school's outbreak management plans should cover this possibility.</p>	<p>Heads</p> <p>Gold Command</p>	<p><b>Implemented second half of Autumn Term.</b></p>	

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
11. Mixing and bubbles.	From the start of the autumn term, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups, or bubbles.	The school's outbreak management plan will make provision for the reintroduction of temporary bubbles to reduce mixing between groups, in the event of an outbreak.  <b>Reduced mixing indoors implemented Second half of Autumn term. To continue Spring Term.</b>	Head	Nov 21 Jan 22	
12. Hand hygiene	Frequent and thorough hand cleaning continues to be important in the prevention of infection. Pupils, staff and visitors should ensure they clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.	<b>Hand sanitiser will be deployed in classrooms and communal areas</b>	Head  Site teams	Ongoing	
13. Respiratory hygiene	'Catch it, bin it, kill it' continues to be important. <a href="#">Catch it, bin it, kill it posters.</a>	The <a href="#">e-Bug COVID-19</a> website contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.	Head	ongoing	
14. Personal Protective Equipment [ PPE]	Most staff in schools will NOT require PPE beyond what they would usually require for their work.  The guidance on <a href="#">the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings</a> provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.	PPE will be provided for those staff who need it.  Staff working in the Testing Centre will have training and be provided with PPE as per the guidance on testing centres.	Head / DFO  Testing Centre Coordinators		
15. Cleaning regimes	School should maintain their elevated cleansing of regularly contacted surfaces.  PHE has published guidance on the <a href="#">cleaning of non-healthcare settings.</a>	Cleaning materials in each classroom for staff to use across the day as required.  <i>Wipes will be available to each classroom and for work stations to be cleaned by staff if moving classrooms.</i>	DFO Head		
16. Effective ventilation.	School staff should consider and include effective ventilation alongside other control measures to reduce risk of transmission within classrooms and other work spaces.	School staff should be able to identify any poorly ventilated spaces and take steps to improve air flow in these areas. <b>Windows will be kept open to maximise air flow.</b>	Head  DFO All staff	CO2 ventilators now in classrooms	



Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
<p>17. Dealing with symptomatic cases or positive tests.</p>	<p>Pupils, staff and other adults should self-isolate straight away and get a <a href="#">PCR test</a> as soon as possible if they have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a high temperature</li> <li>• a new continuous cough</li> <li>• or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell,</li> </ul> <p>or have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).</p> <p>Pupils, staff and other adults should follow <a href="#">public health advice</a> on when to isolate and what to do.</p> <p><b>Staff and pupils should not come to school if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>they have tested positive with a LFT</b></li> <li>* <b>are symptomatic</b></li> <li>* <b>have tested positive with a PCR.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>They should inform the school as soon as possible.</b></p> <p><b>New rules on self-isolation and LFT tests from 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2022</b></p>	<p><b><i>Pupils or staff who exhibit Covid19 symptoms whilst at school will be sent home. The Head will approve all such decisions.</i></b></p> <p>People with symptoms should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible.</p> <p>Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary, further information on this can be found in the use of <a href="#">PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance</a>.</p> <p>Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.</p> <p><b>Self-isolation period can be ended at 7 days. Take a daily LFD test from the sixth day of the isolation period, and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school. Daily LFT should continue to be used til day 10.</b></p>	<p>Heads</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	
<p>18. Use of Confirmatory PCR tests</p>	<p>Staff and pupils with a positive LFT test result should self-isolate in line with the <a href="#">stay at home guidance</a>. They will also need <a href="#">to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19</a>.</p>	<p>If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>Heads</p>	<p><b>11 Jan 22 suspended this control</b></p>	



Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
	<p>Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</p> <p>11/01/21 Updated guidance to temporarily no longer have confirmation of positive LFT but to isolate as per current guidance</p>	<p>Additional information on <a href="#">PCR test kits for schools and further education providers</a> is available.</p> <p><b><i>The school will ask for a copy of positive PCR tests and log the names, so as to be able to monitor the overall level of cases in the school community.</i></b></p>			
<p>19. Individuals NOT required to isolate</p>	<p>From 16 August, people will not be required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are fully vaccinated</li> <li>you are below the age of 18 years 6 months</li> <li>you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial</li> <li>You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.</li> </ul> <p>Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.</p> <p>However, people should not arrange to have a PCR test if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19, as it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.</p>	<p>They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a <a href="#">PCR test</a>. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.</p> <p>Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years &amp; 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.</p> <p>18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.</p> <p><b>New requirement to test daily (if a close contact but don't need to self-isolate) 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2022</b></p>	<p>Head</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
20. Admitting symptomatic children into school	In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.	If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, the school can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.	Head	ongoing	
21. Lateral flow device testing – ongoing for staff and pupils.	<p>All staff should test themselves using lateral flow device tests twice per week at home, until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.</p> <p>All early years and wraparound childcare staff should also continue to test twice weekly as they have done throughout the summer.</p>	<p>Those who test positive should isolate.</p> <p><i>(taking a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and continue to isolate if the result is positive - suspended on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 22).</i></p> <p>Jan 2022 Close contacts strongly advised to take LFTs for seven days</p> <p>Schools will distribute home testing kits as supplied by DfE to staff as directed.</p>	Heads	11 Jan 2022	
22. First aid and first responders	<p>Due to the nature of first responders providing immediate assistance to individuals who may have coronavirus infection, use of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control measures should continue to be practised by first responders.</p> <p><a href="#">Guidance for first aiders and first responders</a></p> <p>The school's first aid assessment should be reviewed to ensure an adequate provision, including at least one paediatric First Aider present at all times in Primary schools.</p> <p>Advice from the St John Ambulance is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Effective hand hygiene.</p> <p>Personal protective equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposable gloves and plastic apron</li> <li>• Fluid resistant surgical face mask</li> <li>• If splashes or droplets of blood or body fluids likely – use disposable eye protection, face visor or goggles.</li> </ul> <p>Keep others at least 2ms away.</p> <p>Avoid mouth-to-mouth during CPR – apply compressions only, unless in the case of a child patient – use a resuscitation face shield.</p>	All first aiders		
23. Educational visits	<p>From the 1<sup>st</sup> September, all types of residential visits within the UK for all schools and settings is allowed.</p> <p>The school shall undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits</p>	<p>School's residential trip risk assessments must include a planned and prepared contingency arrangement to respond to supervisory staff or students becoming symptomatic or testing positive with a lateral flow device during the trip.</p>	All staff and educational visits co-ordinators.	During the planning of any educational visit.	

Activity to Manage	Current Control Measures	Additional Control Measures	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
	<p>and ensure that any public health advice, such as, minimising contact with others, maintaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social distancing</li> <li>• good hand hygiene</li> <li>• good ventilation,</li> </ul> <p>Is included as part of that risk assessment.</p> <p>Establishments planning a residential visit to a different country in the UK (Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) should check current government guidance for that country.</p> <p>In particular, they should check the guidance for accommodation providers, as this may limit the type and size of groups that they can accommodate.</p>	<p>Travel time to return to home should be minimised.</p> <p>Any attendance restrictions should be reflected in the visits risk assessment and setting leaders should consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe.</p> <p>Only students who are attending the setting should go on an educational visit.</p> <p><b><i>The school should consult the SBC health and safety team when considering visits re risk assessment.</i></b></p> <p>Given the likely gap in COVID-19 related cancellation insurance, if you are considering booking a new visit, whether domestic or international, you are advised to ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place.</p> <p><a href="#">General guidance</a> about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the <a href="#">Outdoor Education Advisory Panel</a> .</p>			
24. School visitors or contractors	Visiting contractors should be made of the school's control measures and ways of working.	Visiting contractors should be asked – as part of the school's Control of Contractors arrangements, for confirmation of a recent negative lateral flow device test before being permitted to access the premises.	Administrator Site manager Head	ongoing	
25. Wrap-around provision and extra care	Information on planning extra-curricular provision can be found in the guidance for providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after school clubs, tuition and other out of school provision for children,	<p><a href="#">Protective measures</a> for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p><i>Go Sports and Go Music will follow the national guidance for the relevant Sporting Bodies. They</i></p>	Heads  Director of Go Sports and Music	ongoing	

<b>Activity to Manage</b>	<b>Current Control Measures</b>	<b>Additional Control Measures</b>	<b>Action by who?</b>	<b>Action by when?</b>	<b>Done</b>
		<i>will adhere to any additional controls on host the school site(s).</i>			

Reviewers	Name	Date	Comments
1 <sup>st</sup> Review by	J Lewis	06/09/21	Approved
QA Check by	Chair of Governors	19/10/21	Approved
2 <sup>nd</sup> Review by	J Lewis	12/10/21	Approved
QA Check by			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Review by	J Lewis	04/01/22	
QA Check by	J McCann DFO	10/01/22	

Date	Revisions - state changes introduced
27.8.21	Updated to reflect The Schools Operational Guidance 18.8.21 Schools Contingency Framework – August 2021 Children no longer considered clinically extremely vulnerable and removed from the Shielded Patients List 26.8.21.
12.10.21	Discussion with G Mann Stockton Public Health – reintroduction of face coverings and testing for part of Y10
10.11.21	Stockton Public Health request for additional controls til end of November
24.11.21	Stockton Public Health extending period of additional controls for two more weeks
04.01.22	Updated in response to latest government guidance – no longer require PCR for confirmation after LFT is non-symptomatic from 11/01/22 Close contacts to LFT for 7 days after contact. Change re isolation period (can return on 7 <sup>th</sup> day subject to 2 negative LFT)

## **Annex A Updated Guidance first issued on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, renewed on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Advice from the Director of Public Health for additional, voluntary measures related to COVID-19 will remain in place for a further two weeks. This decision has been made following a review of the current number of cases overall across the borough, along with the transmission rate within our school aged children and young people. These voluntary measures advised by the Director of Public Health are intended to be applied by schools through their own risk assessment and risk management approach:

1. **Face coverings** to be worn in communal areas of school by secondary age students, staff and visitors. Secondary and further education settings to review their setting risk assessment, including their ventilation of classroom areas, current number of cases within the setting. Following this assessment, the setting may decide to extend the use of face coverings to classrooms.
2. **Staff and governor meetings**, where feasible to be carried out virtually, rather than face to face.
3. To carefully consider **reducing large gatherings** that mix whole school or year groups of students (e.g., assemblies)
4. **Limit visitors to the school and** consider carefully whether events that bring parents into the school can be managed safely or should return to online. We are aware that at this time of year many schools will be planning events, trips and celebrations, careful consideration should be given to the risk assessment of these events to maximise the use of control measures which reduce the risk of transmission.
5. For those secondary age students or staff (if exempt from isolation) who are **household contacts of a positive case** to take a daily lateral flow test at home before attending school for 7 days (for example, for the duration of what the isolation period would have been if they were not exempt from isolation) This is in addition to the PCR test that all close contacts are advised to take

### **Christmas celebrations – voluntary additional measures.**

These additional, voluntary measures now extend into a time where many schools will be planning to run Christmas celebrations such as performances, fairs and trips. A number of schools have asked for further clarity on how the advice about additional measures relates to these events.

As noted, this advice should be applied as part of usual risk management arrangements but decisions relating to these events should take into consideration:

- Any current outbreaks in school
- The size and intended invitees for any gathering and how school can manage ventilation, and the mixing of large groups
- Monitoring the effectiveness of current controls

- Additional measures that can be put in place, such as offering performances with a virtual audience

The advice is not intended as a blanket ban on any events or activities, but to encourage schools to consider through their risk assessments how to maximise the use of control measures or adapt / postpone if indicated by the risk assessment process.

### **Martin Gray**

Director of Children's Services  
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

## **Appendix 1. People more at risk from Coronavirus.**

### **Clinically extremely vulnerable**

People with the following conditions are automatically deemed clinically extremely vulnerable and therefore have been previously included on the Shielded Patient List:

- solid organ transplant recipients
- people with specific cancers:
  - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
  - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
  - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
  - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - people having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- people with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- people with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell disease)
- people on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection
- problems with your spleen, for example splenectomy (having your spleen removed)
- adults with Down's syndrome
- adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (stage 5)
- women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired



- other people who have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs – GPs and hospital clinicians have been provided with guidance to support these decisions

## Appendix 2 Guidance and sources

This document is current at the date published, but expect the government's guidance to be revised and updated regularly. Schools should check the relevant government websites for new and revised guidance at:

- [Health and Safety Executive](#),
- [Gov.UK](#)
- [National Health Service](#)
- [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS 111 online](#).
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [Schools operational guidance](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Actions for FE colleges and providers](#)
- [Special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)
- [Contingency framework](#)

The Local Authority Public Health Team can be contacted at : [www.digital.stockton.gov.uk/covid19-contactus](http://www.digital.stockton.gov.uk/covid19-contactus) or 01642 528474.

For Health and Safety enquiries, contact [healthandsafetyunit@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:healthandsafetyunit@stockton.gov.uk) or 01642 528195



