**Covid-19 Generic risk assessment template for schools and childcare settings- 9th June 2023**

This risk assessment template has been updated to refer schools to the most up to date [UKSHA advice on infection control management.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) This risk assessment must be done in consultation with staff and union representatives.

~~This risk assessment template has been rewritten in line with the~~ [~~next steps for living with COVID-19~~](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) ~~and the associated guidance for education settings, concentrating on maintaining baseline protective measures and escalation to the UKHSA when required as detailed in the local authority’s Infection (including Covid-19) Control Management document on~~ [~~EGfL~~](https://www.egfl.org.uk/coronavirus)~~. This risk assessment must be done in consultation with staff and union representatives.~~

**Key guidance for schools:** can be found at:

* [UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) health protection in education and childcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [DfE emergency planning and response](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [DfE good estate management for schools](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools/health-and-safety?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [ventilation of indoor spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus/ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* [Using CO₂ monitors and air cleaning units in education and care settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-co-monitors-and-air-cleaning-units-in-education-and-care-settings#co-monitors)
* [COVID-19 guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)
* Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
* [Ealing Grid for Learning](https://www.egfl.org.uk/coronavirus)

**This Risk Assessment should be completed in conjunction with the guidance above**

Further advice can be sought by contacting either [Raj Chowdhury](mailto:Chowdhuryr@ealing.gov.uk) (Children’s Services) or [Steve Dunham](mailto:DunhamS@ealing.gov.uk) (Children’s Services)

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| **Document Changes** | **Date** |
| Original document published | 22nd May 2020 |
| References made to EHCP children with 1-2-1 support.  Hierarchy of controls added for all settings.  Note added about virtual assemblies.  Note added about seeking advice if required around propping of doors.  Note added about cleaning of lunch areas.  Note added on external providers of OT/physiotherapy and hydrotherapy sessions. | 26th May 2020 |
| First page text amended to reflect the updated guidance on those clinically vulnerable and those clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding). | 4th June 2020 |
| Text added about the ‘Test and Trace’ system and what schools should do in the event of a suspected or confirmed case. | 19th June 2020 |
| Text added to clarify that staff members do not need to self-isolate as a precaution if they need to change ‘bubbles’. | 22nd June 2020 |
| Front page updated to reflect changes to government guidance for schools bringing back all children. Risk assessment rewrite based on amended government guidance | 3rd July 2020 |
| As a result of trade union consultation, a reminder added for schools to adequately record details of pupils, staff and visitors on site. | 8th July 2020 |
| In line with updated guidance, the need for strict social distancing on dedicated transport removed and schools to provide immunisation programmes as normal added. | 31st July 2020 |
| Updated to reflect the fact that the local authority now only needs to be informed about any positive cases (not suspected cases). In line with updated government guidance, the potential use of face coverings in secondary schools added. | 26th August 2020 |
| In line with updated government guidance, face coverings now advised for over 11’s on dedicated transport and a note added to ensure that ventilation is maximised on dedicated transport vehicles. Schools signposted to government guidance on; music, dance, drama, indoor/outdoor performances and team sports. | 1st September 2020 |
| Link added to the HSE website on first aid. Link to the St John’s Ambulance website removed. | 10th September 2020 |
| DfE contact details added for any confirmed cases | 17th September 2020 |
| Changes made to reflect further controls due to the new virus variants and January 2021 national lockdown. Additional controls include; High schools may wish to use face coverings in classrooms, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, highlighting the need to keep visitors to an absolute minimum, reminding schools to keep ‘bubble sizes’ as small as possible and the rollout of asymptomatic testing in certain school settings. | 8th January 2021 |
| Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 22nd February 2021 for the full opening of schools in March. Changes made include the areas of face coverings and asymptomatic testing. Overall size of document also reduced. | 24th February 2021 |
| Updates made in line with Government guidance published on 26th March 2021. Changes made in the areas of; test and trace, CEV pupils, educational visits, wraparound care and extra-curricular activities and physical activities. | 29th March 2021 |
| Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 10th May 2021. Foreword note added on face coverings. Additions made in the areas of educational visits, wraparound and extra-curricular provisions, performances and outdoor activities. | 12th May 2021 |
| Updates made in line with Government guidance published on the 6th July 2021 on Step 4 of the roadmap and local/London wide public health advice. | 15th July 2021 |
| Aligned to the new phase in the government’s response to the pandemic alongside advice from the local authority Public Health Team. | 24th August 2021 |
| Aligned with the letter sent out by Anna Bryden (Ealing Council Director of Public Health) to Schools on the 29th November 2021. Updates are around government guidance on the Omicron variant and the local authority local response plan. | 29th November 2021 |
| Aligned with the government’s Plan B response to Covid-19. | 10th December 2021 |
| Aligned with the new guidance on lateral flow testing/self-isolating. | 14th December 2021 |
| Updated in line with new guidance on face coverings, self-isolation periods, confirmatory PCR tests and travel to England | 10th January 2022 |
| Updated to reflect the governments living with Covid-19 response announced on the 21st February 2022. | 24th February 2022 |
| Rewritten to reflect the governments amended guidance on living with Covid-19 and the revised education setting documentation. | 12th April 2022 |
| Updated government links added in green- guidance on health protection in children and young people settings, including education dated 13th February 2023. Emergency planning and first aid government links also updated as well as using C02 monitors and air cleaning units. | 9th June 2023 |

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| **School:** | | | | **School address:** | | **Review Date:**  (This is a dynamic document and should be reviewed and updated if there are any changes) | | |  | | |  |
| **Assessment Date:** | | | | **What/who is being assessed?**  Biological hazard- Respiratory infections including Covid-19 within educational settings  (This is a generic risk assessment for schools with signposts to the relevant Government guidance. Schools will need to include any specific controls they have in place to this document). | | | | | | | |
| **Name of Assessor:** | | | |  | | **Responsible Person for Actions:** | | |  | | |
| **Task / Activity Area** | **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What are your existing controls?**  *SLT’s to write what is being done now and then refer to Recommended controls:* | | **Recommended Control Measures**  *SLT’s to move Recommended Controls into Existing Controls once they have been implemented:* | | **Action by who/when?** | **Likelihood of occurrence after recommendedcontrols added (L)**  **1-Very Unlikely**  **2-Unlikely**  **3- Possible**  **4- Likely**  **5- Very Likely**  **Likelihood = Probability of occurrence based on specific activity being assessed** | | **Impact (I)**  **1-Negligible**  **2- Minor**  **3- Moderate**  **4- Major**  **5- Extreme**  **Impact = Estimate of harm based on specific activity being assessed** | **Overall Risk**  **(L X I) + I**  **<10 = Low**  **10-19 = Medium**  **20-30 = High** | | |

| **Task / Activity Area** | **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **What are your existing controls?** | **Recommended Control Measures** | **Action by who/when?** | **Likelihood of occurrence after recommended controls (L)** | **Impact (I)** | **Overall Risk**  **(L X I) + I** |
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| All school-based activities including travelling to and from school | Biological hazard- respiratory infections including Covid-19 | Staff, parents and pupils could become infected with a respiratory illness including Covid-19. If so, they are likely to experience mild symptoms such as fever or cough. In severe cases, this could lead to severe illness and hospitalisation, and, in rare cases, even death | [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities#fn:1) followed by schools on infection control management.  **Schools have baseline protective measures in place:** These include-   * Ensuring that all staff and students who are unwell do not attend the setting. ~~Further guidance on the management of specific infectious diseases, including advised exclusion periods can be found in~~[~~chapter 3~~](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-public-health-management-of-specific-infectious-diseases) ~~of the UKHSA Health protection in education and childcare settings document.~~ * Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of [national immunisation](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/) programmes including coronavirus (COVID-19) and flu. * Ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in. * Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning. ~~see~~[~~chapter 2~~](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-2-infection-prevention-and-control) ~~of the UKHSA Health protection in education. and childcare settings document.~~ * Considering communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of the outbreak or incident and to reinforce key messages, including the use of clear hand and respiratory hygiene measures within the setting such as [E-Bug](https://www.e-bug.eu/). * Guidance followed for those at [higher risk from Covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk).   **Travel:**   * Face coverings recommended in crowded places outside of the school environment including public transport. * [Foreign and Commonwealth Office website](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) referred to for all foreign travel.   **Educational visits:**   * [There and Back again](https://www.egfl.org.uk/facilities/emergency-planning/educational-and-recreational-visits) followed by schools. * General guidance on educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the [Outdoor Education Advisory Panel](https://oeapng.info/) (OEAP).   **Emergency Plans:**   * Schools have emergency plans in place with guidance available on [EGFL](https://www.egfl.org.uk/facilities/critical-incident-guide) and from [Gov.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings)   **Estates Management:**   * Schools follow guidance on [estates management](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools/health-and-safety?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) which includes the management of the following areas: fire, legionella, asbestos, gas and electricity. * Schools to follow guidance on the [use of C02 monitors and air cleaning units](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-co-monitors-and-air-cleaning-units-in-education-and-care-settings), which includes identifying any poorly ventilated spaces.   **Administering first aid/medication:**  *•*[HSE guidance on first aid](https://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/) followed. This includes first aid cover and qualifications as well as guidance for first aiders.  *•* Administering first aid and medication risk assessments completed by schools.  *•* [Government PPE guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities)followed as required. | **UKHSA HPT contacted if required as per:** [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities#fn:1)  **~~UKHSA HPT contacted if required as per the local authority infection control management document on~~** [**~~EGfL~~**](https://www.egfl.org.uk/coronavirus)**~~:~~**   * ~~A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection or diarrhoea and vomiting~~[~~[footnote 1]~~](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-action-in-the-event-of-an-outbreak-or-incident#fn:1) * ~~Evidence of severe disease due to an infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital~~[~~[footnote 2]~~](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-action-in-the-event-of-an-outbreak-or-incident#fn:2) * ~~More than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chicken pox and scarlet fever~~   **~~Schools are also asked to contact the UKHSA HPT as soon as possible to report any outbreak or serious or unusual illness for example:~~**   * ~~E.coli 0157 or E coli STEC infection~~ * ~~Food poisoning~~ * ~~Hepatitis~~ * ~~Measles, mumps, rubella (rubella is also called German measles)~~ * ~~Meningococcal meningitis or septicemia~~ * ~~Scarlet fever (if an outbreak or co-circulating chicken pox)~~ * ~~Tuberculosis (TB)~~ * ~~Typhoid~~ * ~~Whooping cough (also called pertussis)~~ |  | **2** | **3** | **(2X3) +3 =**  **9**  **(Low)** |

