

COVID-19

Outbreak Management Plan

for

Ridgewood High School



Approved by: Rae Cope **Date:** 27th September, 2021

Last reviewed on: 27th September, 2021

Next review due by: 5th January, 2022

1. Introduction

This Outbreak Management Plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE) and adapted from the template provided by The Key Support Services Ltd and will be used alongside the latest Government Guidance. The DfE's COVID Contingency Framework states that settings should have an outbreak management plan, which describes how they would operate if there was an outbreak in school and when it may be necessary to implement additional measures to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the setting.

The purpose of this plan is to prepare for moving forwards with the government agenda. It is a national priority for education and childcare settings to continue to operate as normal during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The measures contained in this plan state the actions we will consider to be implemented in response to the following situations arising and with support and recommendations provided by the local authority (LA), Director of Public Health (DPH), Public Health England (PHE), health protection team or the national government.

It is the role of the Headteacher to oversee the coordination of this plan.

Thresholds

- For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first:
 - 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely*, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
 - 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely* test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
- Evidence of severe illness e.g. students or staff members admitted to hospital or a death as a result of a COVID-19 infection
- In response to a new Variant of Concern (VoC)
- Extremely high prevalence of Covid-19 in the local community / area

Mixing

*It is recognised that identifying a group that is likely to have mixed closely will be different for each setting, but a group will rarely mean a whole setting or year group. We will identify groups using the following:

For schools, this could include:

- a form group or subject class
- a friendship group mixing at breaktimes
- a sports team
- a group in an after-school activity

1:1 Actions to consider:

When the thresholds outlined above are reached we will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures we already have in place. Further detail on these can be found in the guidance for each sector located at [cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#)

Dudley Council Public Health will work closely with our setting and provide us with advice and support on a case- by- case basis, taking into account the local situation. For example; if local rates are extremely high, a response is required to a 'variant of concern' (VOC) and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, then the thresholds for extra action may be higher than set out above.

Where action is necessary to help reduce transmission within our setting, these are the measures which may need to be temporarily introduced include:

- Additional/increased testing. The reintroduction of on-site testing may be advised by our local director of public health for individual settings or small clusters, or in settings across areas where an “enhanced response package” has been deemed appropriate
- Face coverings for staff (who are not exempt) when arriving at setting and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas
- Face coverings for students
- Reintroducing students/children into bubbles and/or consistent groups
- Short term attendance restrictions, such as sending home a class or year group – this would only be advised in extreme cases, and as a last resort where all other risk mitigations have not broken chains of transmission within the setting
- Shielding for vulnerable individuals (shielding can only be introduced by national government)
- If an outbreak occurs, we will work with Dudley Health Protection team to help identify individuals who may have been in contact with known infectious individuals

2. Shielding

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield to risk assess the need for any additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning.

3. Other measures

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into setting
- Live performances

4. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

4.1 Eligibility to remain in setting

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils

➤ Children of critical workers

If further restrictions are recommended, we will stay open only for:

➤ Vulnerable pupils

➤ Children of critical workers

4.2 Education and support for pupils at home

For pupils required to stay at home, we will provide remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in the setting, as outlined in our Remote Learning Policy. For students who do not have access to the internet or a computer, the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Cannon, is the point of contact.

The school will continue to provide lunch parcels or vouchers, if appropriate, for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

The school will continue to stay in touch with students who are participating in remote learning. We will focus first on those students who may need extra support, for instance; SEND, students with a social worker, those who are struggling to make progress, students who may have mental health concerns. Parents who have any concerns should contact the Support and Guidance Officer for their child's year group.

4.3 Wraparound care

We will limit access to before and after-school activities including wraparound care during term time and the summer holidays to those that need it most.

We will communicate who will be eligible to attend once the restrictions are confirmed.

4.4 Safeguarding

We will review our Safeguarding policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

The safeguarding email address: safeguarding@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk is monitored by the DSL and the Headteacher.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site and will be able to contact the DSL or a DDSL by phone.