

RA 029B Contingency Plan School opening COVID 19 v4 Jan 2022

RISK ASSESSMENT RECORDING FORM

Location or School Address: St John Plessington Catholic College	Date assessment Undertaken 9/12/2021 Updated 4/1/2022	Assessment undertaken. by: Jeanne Fairbrother, SEH, PSM, MSS
Activity or situation Contingency Plan School opening	Review date: Weekly review or as appropriate for the activity	Signature: S. Harvey, P. McLoughlin, M. Sharratt

Background information

The Prime Minister announced on 27 November the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant and on 8th December that Plan B, set out in the autumn and winter plan 2021, was being enacted. As a result, these measures are reflected in this updated RA 029B Contingency Plan COVID 19- Plan B v6 2nd Jan 2022. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops.

The DfE Contingency framework: education & childcare settings guidance was updated 15th December 2021. The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of Coronavirus (COVID-19) (including responding to variants of concern) in education and childcare settings, covering:

- the types of measures that settings should be prepared for
- who can recommend these measures and where
- when measures should be lifted
- how decisions are made

UPDATED – Plan B Changes 2nd Jan 2022

- updated advice to the <u>face coverings section</u> and <u>Annex B</u> to reflect that face coverings are now temporarily recommended in communal areas in **all** settings for adults and for pupils from year 7 onwards
- updated advice on tracing close contacts and isolation to reflect the change in measures for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases

All education and childcare settings should already have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) describing what they would do if children, pupils, students or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how they would operate if they were advised to reintroduce any measures described in this document to help break chains of transmission.

COVID-19 resilience and planning is now more important than ever. Settings do not need to reformat their existing contingency plans to specific templates, but the plans should be kept robust and up to date in light of the advice set out here.

A good plan should cover:

- roles and responsibilities
- when and how to seek public health advice
- details on the types of control measures you might be asked to put in place

For each control measure you should include:

- actions you would take to put it in place quickly
- how you would ensure every child, pupil or student receives the quantity and quality of education and support to which they are normally entitled
- how you would communicate changes to children, pupils, students, parents, carers and staff

This risk assessment applies to:

- primary schools
- secondary schools (including sixth forms)
- special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision
- 16 to 19 academies
- infant, junior, middle, upper schools

Please note that this risk assessment has been created in line with the current government guidance. It contains sample control measures that fit with the system of controls contained in Government guidance. One size does not fit all, and schools should make this model risk assessment their own and reflect specifics of what they are doing and any local guidance, particularly from local HPT's in line with DfE expectations.

Legislation and guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 Management of H&S at Work Regulations 1999 Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 DfE Actions for schools plus associated COVID 19 Guidance Public Health England Guidance

1) Hazard / Activity	2) Who can be harmed and how?	3) What controls exist to reduce the risk? Have you followed the hierarchy of controls (eliminate, substitute etc)?	Risk Score Consequence X Likelihood	4) Any further action. This should be included in the action plan (5), below
Collaboration with local authorities during localised outbreak of COVID 19 cases All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings unless indicated Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPT's) are responsible for managing localised outbreaks. School liaises and responds to guidance from DsPH& local HPT's 	3X2=6	Ongoing communication with Wirral outbreak hub. (PSM)
Failure to assess the risks of COVID 19 transmission in school and have control measures in place. All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings unless indicated School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19. See RA 029A School opening Omicron variant Dec 2021. This is shared with all staff and stakeholders. The risk assessment is regularly reviewed as circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. School monitors whether the controls in place are effective and working as intended. School seeks support from HS advisors as required. Baseline measures As per DfE School's operational guidance school/college has in place measures to manage transmission of COVID-19. These include: Secondary/college Staff and students should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged. All settings Those who test positive should isolate, take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and continue to isolate if the result is positive. Schools and colleges will need to be prepared to implement high-quality blended learning arrangements so that any child who is well enough to learn from home can do so. 	3X2=6	

		 All settings Under-18s, irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case (unless the positive case is a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19). They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate. Further guidance for close contacts of someone who has tested positive and lives in the same household, and for those who do not live together is available. All settings should continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, All settings School/college continues strong messaging about signs and symptoms, isolation advice and testing, to support prompt isolation of suspected cases and vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff. 		
Failing to have adequate outbreak management plans to allow for stepping measures up and down. All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings unless indicated School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19. See RA 029A School opening Omicron variant Dec 2021. This is shared with all staff and stakeholders. School has this contingency plan risk assessment with measures it will use if staff or pupils test positive for COVID 19 or, to step measures up or down, if required by local DsPH in the event of a local outbreak 	3X2=6	Share updated RA with staff / Update website. (PSM)
Communication All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	All settings School will communicate its plan for addressing any imposed restrictions with parents, staff, pupils and other relevant parties regarding: o opening arrangements. o access for specific targeted groups where applicable, such as certain year groups, vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.	3X2=6	

Close Mixing All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 any reviews of the school's protective measures as part of school's risk assessments. any arrangements for remote working School will keep all relevant parties up to date with the circumstances of any imposed restrictions and how these affect the school as the situation develops through ParentMail. Should staff absence compromise the health and safety of staff and students, a decision will be taken on which groups of students will work from home. We will prioritise on site face to face teaching for Y13, Y11, Y12 and Y7. We will ensure that students have adequate digital support to access working from home All settings School /college is able to identify any group(s) that are likely to have mixed closely, through seating plans. 	3X2=6	Reminder to staff to update seating plans (PSM)
Testing All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings School contingency plans reflect the possibility of increased use of lateral flow device (LFD) testing by staff and, where they are already being offered testing, for pupils and students. DsPH could advise on increased LFD testing, which may be advised for an individual setting or in areas of high prevalence by as part of their responsibilities in outbreak management. This could also include advice on the reintroduction of onsite LFD testing for settings across areas that have been offered an enhanced response package or are in an enduring transmission area, where settings and DsPH decide it is appropriate. 	3X2=6	

		 DsPH will consult and work with school/college to identify what support may be needed to do this. Secondary schools and FE colleges Will consider how onsite LFD testing could be implemented in a way that does not negatively impact the education provided to pupils and students. DsPH should keep DfE and UKHSA informed of all cases where they are considering recommending onsite LFD testing for an education setting, via their RPT and RSC. School strongly encourages staff and students in year 7 and above to test twice weekly at home (3-4 days apart) and report their results. 	
school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School will provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January to boost participation and help reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays. Secondary school Pupils should undertake one test on-site at the start of term in their school asymptomatic test site (ATS) followed by one LFD self-test at home 3-4 days after their on-site test. They should then continue to test in line with government guidelines. Secondary school- School provides an on-site test for pupils on return in January to boost participation and help reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays. Secondary All staff and students should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. 	3X2=6

Welcoming pupils back to school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school the decision to refuse the pupil can be made if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. School will decide after carefully considering the circumstances and current public health advice. 	3X2=6	
Thresholds for extra action All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings School has RA 029A School opening Omicron variant Dec 2021 which sets out the measures that are in place to manage transmission of COVID-19 day to day. This has been shared with all staff & stakeholders. School/college will think about extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases. If school/college meets the thresholds, below, then it will seek public health advice if they are concerned. 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 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period For special schools, residential settings, and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time: 2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period All settings School will seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with 	3X2=6	

		COVID-19. Phone the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or, in line with other local HPT arrangements. (Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern.) School will work to contain any outbreak by following local HPT's advice O Wirral schools contact Wirral LA covid helpline 0151 666 3600. Email: covidschoolsupport@wirral.gov.uk Should staff absence compromise the health and safety of staff and students, a decision will be taken on which groups of students will work from home. We will prioritise on site face to face teaching for Y13, Y11, Y12 and Y7. We will ensure that students have adequate digital support to access working from home		
Positive case All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health stay at home advice Pupils, staff and other adults should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or are required to quarantine. If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and advised to follow public health advice. Since Wednesday 22 December 2021 the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless the individual cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. 	3X2=6	Information shared with staff to clarify what do do regarding testing (PSM)

		See chart for full details https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/image_data/file/139357/Isolation_graphic_g60_x_640png		
Actions to consider once a	Staff, pupils, visitors,	All settings	3X2=6	
threshold is reached	contractors increased risk	If school reaches a threshold for extra action (See		
	of transmission of COVID	Thresholds for extra action above) school will:		
All settings unless indicated	19	 contact local the DfE helpline & HPT review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place. whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment. 		
Face coverings	Staff, pupils, visitors,	All settings unless indicated	3X2=6	Information on use of
	contractors increased risk	In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the		facemasks shared with
All settings unless indicated	of transmission of COVID	recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the		pupils in return
	19	benefits in managing transmission.		assemblies. (MSS / PSM and SLT)
		All settings – any staff who wish to wear a face covering in		
		school will be supported to do so.		
		 Secondary/FE Pupils in year 7 and above should wear face coverings. 		
		Secondary/FE Pupils in year 7 should also wear a face		
		covering when travelling on public transport and dedicated		
		transport to and from school.		
		All settings (below)		

 In order to be most effective, a face covering should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made of a breathable material capable of filtering airborne particles. Face visors or shields: can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. Face visors /shields should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately. A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth, and do not filter airborne particles. Transparent face coverings may be worn by those who communicate through lip-reading or facial expressions. School will not prevent individuals from entering or attending school if they are not wearing a face covering, if exempt. 	
carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned	
o A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the	
 Transparent face coverings may be worn by those who communicate through lip-reading or facial expressions. School will not prevent individuals from entering or 	
 exempt. School understands it has a duty to comply with the Equality Act 2010 which includes making reasonable adjustments for disabled staff. 	
 School has a duty towards disabled children, pupils and students to support them to access education successfully. School will discuss with pupils and parents the types of 	
 reasonable adjustments that are being considered to support an individual. School has a supply of face coverings available Clear instructions are provided on how to put on, remove, 	
 Clear instructions are provided on now to put on, remove, store, and dispose of face coverings. Face coverings can be disposed of in normal waste 	

Re-introduce Shielding - CEV staff & pupils, pregnant staff All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings School is aware that staff and pupils previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again. Individuals previously identified as CEV are advised to continue to follow the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Individuals should consider advice from their health professional on whether additional precautions are right for them. 	3X2=6	SEH / HR to ensure all staff who require it - have individual RA
Adults previously considered CEV	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School is aware that staff previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again. School will discuss any concerns that previously considered CEV employees may have. Individuals previously identified as CEV are advised to continue to follow the guidance for people previously considered CEV Employees who have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take should continue to follow that advice and advise school. 	3X2=6	
Children and young people previously considered CEV	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School is aware that pupils previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) will not be advised to shield again and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population. Pupils who have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take should continue to follow that advice and discuss with school. 	3X2=6	

New & expectant mothers	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings Vaccinated pregnant staff MUST still: where advised wear a face mask wash their hands carefully and frequently open windows to let fresh air in follow the <u>current guidance</u> An individual risk assessment is carried out for pregnant staff with appropriate risk mitigation in line with the latest recommendations from DHSC, PHE & RCOG. See RA 026 New & Expectant member of staff. Pregnant staff of any gestation are not required to continue working on site if this is not supported by the separate risk assessment. Staff who are in the below categories should take a more precautionary approach:	SEH / HR to ensure all staff who require it - have individual RA
		 Pregnant staff are encouraged to get vaccinated if possible. <u>COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for women of</u> 	

		 childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding contains further advice on vaccination. School will respond to all changes to guidance for pregnant employees. 	
Education workforce All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings School contingency plans include details if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely if restrictions are imposed. should staff absence compromise the health and safety of staff and students, a decision will be taken on which groups of students will work from home. We will prioritise on site face to face teaching for Y13, Y11, Y12 and Y7. We will ensure that students have adequate digital support to access working from home. From 13th December 2021 School will consider whether it is possible for specific staff undertaking certain roles to work from home without disrupting to face-to-face education. School will consider whether home working is appropriate for employees taking into account mental or physical health difficulties, or those with a particularly challenging home working environment. (See RA 028 Working from home) 	3X2=6
Transport All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings Transport services to and from the school will continue to operate as normal during times of local restriction where pupils are still attending. Face coverings are expected to be worn in enclosed and crowded places - this includes public and dedicated school transport. 	3X2=6

Residential educational visits All settings unless indicated Large events -Mandatory certification from Wednesday 15th December	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19 Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings All visits are risk assessed and include current local restrictions. School uses Evolve and has an EVC School will consider carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only pupils who are attending the setting will go on an educational visit. School will follow guidance on mandatory certification (NHS COVID Pass) only if holding a specific event (such as a reception, concert or party) that meets the attendance thresholds (N.B. Under 18s are exempt from showing their COVID Status but should be counted towards attendance thresholds). LoTC/trips to large events – Staff on trips to theatres or large sporting events will require NHS COVID pass. N.B. Schools should not use the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry for education or related activities such as exams, teaching, extra-curricular activities or any other day-to-day activities that are part of education or training.	3X2=6	SEH / SLT to monitor for upcoming events and RA / Requirements .
School failing to plan: Open days Transition & taster days Parental attendance Performances All settings unless indicated Attendance restrictions -	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19 Staff, pupils, visitors,	 All settings School will follow latest DFE and Local PHE guidance All such events are risk assessed individually and include current local restrictions. School will consider carefully if the event is still appropriate and safe. All settings	3X2=6	
increased COVID infections	contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID	High-quality face-to-face education remains a government priority. Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort:	- C.1.2 0	

Food provision	Staff nunils visitors	 for individual settings, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission across an area, on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS School/college will continue to give priority to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend school undertaking their normal timetables. School/college contingency plans cover the possibility if advised, temporarily, to limit attendance and will ensure that high-quality remote education is provided to all pupils or students not attending. School/college will provide high-quality remote learning will be provided for all pupils and students if: they have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home attendance at school/college has been temporarily restricted. On-site provision will be retained in all cases for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers. If school/college has to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people will be discussed with the local authority. 	3¥2=6	GR and IDA to monitor
Food provision All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings School/college will provide meal options for all pupils /students who are in school/college Meals will be available free of charge to all infant pupils and pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria. 	3X2=6	GB and JDA to monitor this and provide a hamper for FSM pupils - (weekly)

		School will provide FSM or food parcels to eligible pupils who are not attending school, where they have had symptoms or have tested positive.	
Safeguarding All settings unless indicated	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 All settings if attendance restrictions are needed school/college works with all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe All settings School/college continues to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies All settings School will review the child protection policy so that it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective. All settings School will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. If that is not possible In such cases, there are 2 options to consider: a trained DSL (or deputy) can be available to be contacted via phone or online video, share a trained DSLs (or deputies) with other settings, who is available to be contacted via phone or online video All settings Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on-site, in addition to one of the 2 options, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. 	3X2=6
Vulnerable pupils & young people	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 199392	 All settings Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, school will: o 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 o encourage the child or young person to attend educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), 	3X2=6

	particularly where the social worker and the virtual school head (where applicable) agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate of 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 o 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 school/college has to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people will be discussed with the local authority Home visits will be made by school where required.	

Risk Rating	Action Required
20 - 25	Unacceptable – stop activity and make immediate improvements
10 - 16	Urgent action – take immediate action and stop activity, if necessary, maintain existing controls vigorously
5 - 9	Action – Improve within specific timescales
3 - 4	Monitor – but look to improve at review or if there is a significant change
1 - 2	Acceptable – no further action but ensure controls are maintained & reviewed

A						
1	5	5	10	15	20	25
ENCE-	4	4	8	12	16	20
INCREASING CONSEQUENCE-	3	3	6	9	12	15
NG CO	2	2	4	6	8	10
ICREAS	1	1	2	3	4	5
2		1	2	3	4	5
INCREASING LIKELIHOOD					00D—	—

Likelihood: **Consequence**

5 – Very likely

5 – Catastrophic

4 – Likely

4 – Major

3 – Fairly likely

3 – Moderate

2 – Unlikely

2 – Minor

1 – Very unlikely 1 – Insignificant

- (1) List hazards something with the potential to cause harm here
- (2) List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards which you have identified
- List existing controls here or note where the information may be found. Then try to quantify the level of risk the likelihood of harm arising that remains when the existing controls are in place based on the number of persons affected, how often they are exposed to the hazard and the severity of any consequence. Use this column to list the controls that you might take and develop all or some of that list into a workable action plan. Have regard for the level of risk, the cost of any action and the benefit you expect to gain. Agree the action plan with your team leader and make a note of it overleaf. If it is agreed that no further action is to be taken this too should be noted.

	5. Action plan	Responsible	Completed
1	Ongoing communication with Wirral outbreak hub. (PSM)	PSM	Ongoing
2	Share updated RA with staff / Update website. (PSM)	PSM	
3	Reminder to staff to update seating plans (PSM)	PSM	Yes
4	Information shared with staff to clarify what do do regarding testing (PSM)	PSM	Yes
5	Information on use of facemasks shared with pupils in return assemblies. (MSS / PSM and SLT)	MSS / PSM /	Yes
		SLT	
6	SEH / HR to ensure all staff who require it - have individual RA	SEH / HR	Ongoing
7	SEH / SLT to monitor for upcoming events and RA / Requirements .	SEH / SLT	Ongoing
8	GB / JDA to monitor weekly pupils of FSM and provide hampers	JDY / GB	Ongoing
9			
1			
0			
	Action plan agreed by (NAME & DATE)		
	P Mc Loughlin / S Harvey / M Sharratt - 4/1/2022		