**Safety, Health and Environment (SHE)**

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**GCC COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR SCHOOLS (FROM FEBRUARY 2022)**

This is a further update of the GCC COVID-19 Risk Assessment to support schools and educational settings in measures that can be taken to manage COVID-19. The aim of the risk assessment is to implement protective measures in the government’s operational guidance to protect your staff, pupils and community.

You will be aware that a lot of the legal restrictions have been removed. However, COVID-19 has not gone away and is still a risk to your staff, pupils, visitors and the school community that must be managed. You must comply with health and safety law and put in place proportionate control measures for COVID, in the same way that you do for other risks in your setting. Eventually, COVID-19 may become another risk that can just be included in your general risk assessment and/or in the SHE risk assessment toolkits, but for the current time this stand-alone risk assessment is recommended.

You can also just review your existing risk assessments, which should be happening anyway as the circumstances in your school and public health advice changes.

You should have contingency and outbreak management plans outlining how you would operate if you need to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances.

Each school/setting must consider their own situation and adapt the assessment by editing the measures where appropriate. Remove any measures that are not relevant or will not be applied in your setting and add any additional local measures that you are implementing, then complete the relevant columns.

This assessment does not cover the additional considerations to support children and young people who require procedures that may generate aerosols (AGPs), which can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the presence of a positive case between those giving and receiving care. Settings performing AGPs should undertake specific assessments to consider the pupil’s individual needs and the measures staff caring for them are required to take.

Although not a lot has changed since the previous version of this risk assessment, the following changes have been made:

* Links to changes in guidance for people with COVID-19. Although there is no legal requirement to self-isolate, you should note that anyone with the main symptoms or have tested positive should not attend school while they are infectious.
* Face coverings are no longer advised, but may be recommended if there is an outbreak.
* Measures and guidance for vulnerable people has changed.

**COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Schools & Educational Settings**

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| **Risk Assessment for *insert name of school\**** |
| **Hazards** | **Who is at risk?** | **What are you already doing?** | **Is enough to manage the risks?**  | **What further action is necessary?** | **Action by whom?** | **Action by when?** | **Done** |
| **Person showing symptoms or positive test result** | EmployeesPupilsYoung PeopleFamiliesContractorsVisitorsMembers of the public | * Reference to GCC COVID Response Checklist and up to date public health advice for [people with COVID-19 and their contacts](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts).
* Regular communications that persons are not to come into school if they have any of the main symptoms or have had a positive test result.
* If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms they will be sent home.
* An unwell child awaiting collection will be isolated in a suitable room with or without adult supervision (depending on age and needs of the child).
* Staff caring for a child awaiting collection to keep a distance of 2 metres.
* PPE to be worn by staff caring for the child, including:
	+ a face mask worn if close face to face contact is necessary.
	+ if physical contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn
	+ eye protection where there is a risk of fluids entering the eye, for example, from coughing, spitting or vomiting.
* Staff to wash their hands after caring for a child with symptoms.
* All areas where a person with symptoms has been to be cleaned after they have left.
* If there are a number of cases in the school, the threshold guidance in the school outbreak management plan will be followed for managing an outbreak.
* School has sufficient supplies of PPE, face coverings, cleaning materials and hand washing/sanitising liquids.
* If a parent/carer insists on a pupil attending your school with COVID-19, the Headteacher may refuse the pupil if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.
 |  | All HT- will continue with regular updates and actionsHT to manage any COVID first aidALLRestrictions will apply and be put into actionHT to order all new requirements of PPE | HT/staff where applicableGuidance – Feb 2022   Routine asymptomatic testing is no longer advised in mainstream settings.  Twice weekly routine asymptomatic testing continues to be recommended for SEND settings, alternative provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools.All settings may be advised by their local public health team to recommend lateral flow device (LFD) tests to manage an outbreak.         From 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end.         Adults and children who test positive on a PCR, or LFD test, will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.         For staff or children who have any of the main symptoms, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.  They should order a PCR test and are advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. | ongoing |  |
| **Poor Personal Hygiene** | EmployeesPupilsYoung PeopleFamiliesContractorsVisitorsMembers of the public | * COVID-19 posters/ signage displayed.
* Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice.
* Pupils and staff to clean their hands when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating.
* Sufficient handwashing facilities are available.
* Where there is no sink, hand sanitiser provided in classrooms.
* Skin friendly cleaning wipes used as an alternative to hand washing or sanitiser.
* Staff help is available for pupils who have trouble cleaning their hands independently (e.g. small children and pupils with complex needs).
* Resources such as “e-bug” used to teach effective hand hygiene etc.
* Adults and pupils are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
* Adults and pupils encouraged to use a tissue to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste (‘catch it, bin it, kill it’).
 |  | :HT/staff -monitoring and supervision to make sure people are following any controls in place, including enhanced cleaning.Admin to ensure visitors coming into school follow hygiene procedures | Posters displayed in schoolEnsure pupils who need to be supervised for handwashing are done soHT/Staff | ongoing |  |
| **Spreading coronavirus from contact with surfaces, equipment and workstations**  | EmployeesPupilsYoung PeopleFamiliesContractorsVisitorsMembers of the public | * There is a cleaning schedules to ensure regular cleaning of areas and equipment.
* School has been tidied and to reduce clutter and remove difficult to clean items to make cleaning easier.
* Cleaning using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach, paying attention to all surfaces but especially ones that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, remote controls and electronic devices.
* Surfaces that are frequently touched and by many people in common areas to be cleaned twice a day.
* Staff encouraged to keep surfaces clear to make it easier to clean and reduce the likelihood of contaminating objects.
* Toilets and communal areas to be cleaned regularly.
* Sanitising spray and paper towels to be provided in classrooms for use by members of staff.
 |  | * Glen Cleaning have been provided with instruction and information to staff on cleaning, what they need to do, the products they need to use, precautions they need to follow and the areas they need to clean.
* Cleaning sprays and sanitisers will continue to be used by all
 | * GC – are aware of cleaning regime (EV)

All staff to ensure any area they use and move on from is sanitised | * ongoing
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| **Airborne spread of COVID**  | EmployeesPupilsYoung PeopleFamiliesContractorsVisitorsMembers of the public | * Ventilation and AC systems working optimally.
* Carbon dioxide monitors used to identify where ventilation needs to be improved.
* Heating used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained when the building is occupied.
* Keep windows open wide enough to provide some natural background ventilation and open internal doors to increase air flow.
* Open windows fully when rooms are unoccupied for at least 10 minutes to purge the air.
* Action taken to prevent occupants being exposed to draughts. For example, partially open high-level windows as oppose to low-level windows, close external doors and arrange the furniture if appropriate and possible.
* Use fans for good air circulation.
* Air conditioning systems that normally run with a recirculation mode set up to run on full outside air.
* Occupants encouraged to wear additional, suitable indoor clothing. (NB: If they have to wear coats, scarves and other outdoor clothing the room would be considered too cold and the above steps must be considered).
* Ensure staff rooms and meetings rooms have suitable and sufficient ventilation.
* Although face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors, persons choosing to wear face coverings as a precaution will not be deterred when outside the classroom.
 |  | * Monitoring ventilation monitors to continue to be used
* Ventilation to continue
* Fans can be used
* Bubble Room and PPA room particularly vulnerable so keep door open/ window for extra ventilation and use fans
* Face coverings will be reintroduced if there is an outbreak.
* Parent meetings – face coverings will be required
* Meetings with outside agencies – face coverings optional
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* Parent meetings – face coverings will be required

Meetings with outside agencies – face coverings optional | * HT ongoing
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| **Increased risk of infection and complications for workers who are clinically extremely vulnerable and workers in higher- risk groups**  | EmployeesPupilsYoung PeopleFamiliesContractorsVisitorsMembers of the public | * Those considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable, and high or higher-risk advised to follow government [guidance for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19).
* Those staff with a weakened immune system advised to follow [guidance for people whose immune system means they are 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).
* An appropriate person (e.g. Headteacher or manager) will talk to any vulnerable staff to explain the measures being taken to ensure they are working safely.
* A risk assessment will be carried out for any pregnant workers as soon as they notify in writing that they are pregnant.
* Where a pregnant workers healthcare professional advises they are at increased risk (because they have underlying health condition or are not fully vaccinated) the following will be considered:
	+ how to redeploy these staff
	+ how to maximise the potential for homeworking, wherever possible.

Where adjustments to the work environment and role are not possible and alternative work cannot be found, they will be suspended on paid leave. |  | * Guidance on who is clinically extremely vulnerable and what further support may be available from Public Health England.
* Keep under review completed individual risk assessments for pregnant workers..
* Refer to Occupational Health if necessary.
 | HT to identify CEV and action if needed in the event of outbreakIdentify staff and situation of vacinations to enable RA | Vaccination clarificationRA for new staff joiningReview current risk assessments for any staff |  |

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| **Completed by:** | **Jayne NEVEU** | **Date** | **27.02.22** |

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| **Reviewed by**  | **Date** | **Next Review Due** |
|  |  | April 2022 |