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Kingswood House School

Covid-19

Plans and Procedures

(including Contingency Plans)

Spring Term 2022

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Summary

This guidance explains the actions Kingswood House School (KHS) will take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school. This includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE).

KHS will work closely with parents and carers (future references to parents should be read as including carers), staff and unions when agreeing the best approaches for their circumstances.

Overview

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

GOV.UK have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to revise their guidance which KHS have incorporated into this document.

Risk assessment

KHS must comply with health and safety law and put in place proportionate control measures. We will regularly review and update our risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

The government no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will no longer need to be used for any summer provision (for example, Kingswood House Active) or in schools from the autumn term.

As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

KHS will ensure our outbreak management plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.

Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

Pupils with SEND identified as close contacts should be supported by their school and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing.

18-year-olds are 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. Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting (see Stepping measures up and down section for more information) or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Face coverings

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.

It was recommended that face coverings should be worn by pupils in year 7 (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021) and above, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This was a temporary measure.

From January 4th, it is also recommended that pupils in year 7 and above wear face coverings in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This will also be a temporary measure.

Pupils in year 7 and above must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

We would not ordinarily expect teachers to wear a face covering in the classroom if they are at the front of the class, to support education delivery, although KHS is sensitive to the needs of individual teachers.

Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools (year 6 and below) would not be asked to wear face coverings.

See Circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings for exceptions to this.

Face coverings do not need to be worn when outdoors. KHS, as an employer, has a duty to comply with the Equality Act 2010 which includes making reasonable adjustments for disabled staff. We also have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils,

to support them to access education successfully. No pupil will be denied education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

Transparent face coverings

Transparent face coverings can be worn to assist communication with someone who relies on:

- lip reading
- clear sound
- facial expression.

Transparent face coverings may be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. However, the evidence to support this is currently very limited. The benefits of transparent face coverings will be considered alongside the comfort and breathability of a face covering that contains plastic, which may mean that the face covering is less breathable than layers of cloth.

Face coverings (whether transparent or cloth) should fit securely around the face to cover the nose and mouth and be made with 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. They may protect the wearer against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in preventing the escape of smaller respiratory particles when used without an additional face covering. They should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately.

Circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings

There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. KHS are mindful and respectful of such circumstances. Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others. In relation to education settings, this includes (but is not limited to):

- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- people for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress
- people speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- to avoid the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others

- you are also permitted to remove a face covering in order to take medication.

Access to face coverings

Due to the use of face coverings in wider society, staff and pupils are already likely to have access to face coverings. KHS do have a small contingency supply available for people who:

- are struggling to access a face covering
- are unable to use their face covering as it has become damp, soiled or unsafe
- have forgotten their face covering

Staff and pupils may consider bringing a spare face covering to wear if their face covering becomes damp during the day.

Safe wearing and removal of face coverings

The KHS contingency plans already covers the process for when face coverings are worn within school and how they should be removed. The process is communicate clearly to pupils, staff and visitors and allow for adjustments to be made for pupils who may be distressed if required to remove a face covering against their wishes, particularly those with SEND.

When wearing a face covering, staff, visitors and pupils should:

- wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if they've touched the part of the face covering in contact with the mouth and nose
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession to minimise potential contamination

When removing a face covering, staff, visitors and pupils should:

- wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- not give it to someone else to use

- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a household waste bin and do not recycle
- once removed, store reusable face coverings in a plastic bag until there is an opportunity to wash them.
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Separate guidance is also available on preventing and controlling infection, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in education, childcare and children's social care settings.

Stepping measures up and down

KHS have an outbreak management plans outlining how we would operate if there were an outbreak in our school or local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in school would only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission.

KHS will think about taking extra action if the number of positive cases substantially increases and call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. They can be reached by calling the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

The [contingency framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) can recommend measures described in the contingency framework in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings – as part of their outbreak management responsibilities.

Control measures

KHS will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. KHS continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This is done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

The [e-Bug COVID-19 website](#) contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Most staff in school will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents

KHS have in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

PHE has published guidance on the [cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#).

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

When school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

KHS have identified any poorly ventilated spaces as part of our risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example school plays.

Mechanical ventilation is a system that uses a fan to draw fresh air, or extract air from a room. These are adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated.

If possible, systems are adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems are operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply.

Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, KHS ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

KHS will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

The [Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak](#) and [CIBSE COVID-19 advice](#) provides more information. DfE is working with the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and NHS England on a pilot project to measure CO2 levels in classrooms and exploring options to help improve ventilation in settings where needed.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms, 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).

If anyone in school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they 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 will be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window will be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE will also be used if close contact is necessary, further information on this can be found in the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance](#). Any rooms they use will be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Staff and pupils in year 7 and above, should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

KHS retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so we can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

KHS ask parents and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the school. Further information on Daily Rapid Testing can be found in the Tracing close contacts and isolation section.

There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to regularly test, unless they have been identified as a contact for someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore advised to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days.

Temporary Suspension of Confirmatory PCR Tests in Education and Childcare Settings

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) has

been temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result are no longer advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. You are only asked to take a follow up PCR test after a positive LFD test if you:

- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment.
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group.
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme.
- have received a positive day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK.

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Other considerations

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

Further information is available in the guidance on [supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#).

KHS ensure that key contractors are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.

Admitting 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 school, KHS 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. This decision would be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation or guidance published by PHE or the DHSC they will be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they will be recorded as code I (illness).

For pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply. In some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply. Further guidance about the use of codes is provided in the [school attendance guidance](#).

Travel and quarantine

All pupils travelling to England must adhere to [travel legislation](#), details of which are set out in [government travel advice](#). Additional guidance has been issued on the [quarantine arrangements for boarding school pupils travelling from red-list countries to attend a boarding school in England](#).

Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

Remote education

Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, KHS will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

We will maintain our capacity to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year, including for pupils who are abroad, and facing challenges to return due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, for the period they are abroad.

KHS will meet the [Independent School Standards](#) in full at all times.

It is our intention that remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.

We will work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education.

Full expectations for remote education, support and resources can be found on the [get help with remote education service](#).

Pupil wellbeing and support

Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. KHS are committed to promoting and supporting mental health in school. Please contact either your form tutor or the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ESLA) for further support.

School workforce

School leaders are best placed to determine the workforce required to meet the needs of their pupils.

Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else. It is important that everyone adheres to this guidance, but CEV people may wish to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take. Further information can be found in the [guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19](#).

Social distancing measures have now ended in the workplace and it is no longer necessary for the government to instruct people to work from home. KHS have put in place measures to keep CEV staff safe at work. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance on [protecting vulnerable workers](#), including advice for employers and employees on [how to talk about reducing risks in the workplace](#).

KHS encourage staff to take up the vaccine and enable staff who are eligible for a vaccination to attend booked vaccine appointments where possible even during term time.

Educational visits

Given the likely gap in COVID-19 related cancellation insurance, when KHS are considering booking a new visit, whether domestic or international, we ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place.

From the start of the Autumn Term 2021, schools may now go on international visits that have previously been deferred or postponed and organise new international visits for the future.

KHS are aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change during a visit and we must comply with international travel legislation and will have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.

The school will undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. [General guidance](#) about

educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the [Outdoor Education Advisory Panel \(OEAP\)](#).

Wraparound provision and extra-curricular activity

More 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](#).

Inspection

For independent schools (other than academies), it is intended that both inspectorates will return to a full programme of routine inspections from September 2021 and they will complete the current cycle of standard inspections – which was delayed by the pandemic – in 2022.

Accountability expectations

GOV.UK will not publish data based on exam and assessment results from summer 2021 in performance tables and schools will not be held to account for this data. They will publish Key Stage 4 and 16 to 18 subject entries and destinations data at school and college level in performance tables in autumn 2021. For further information, see [COVID-19: school and college accountability](#).

GOV.UK will confirm the position on accountability for academic year 2021/22 in due course.

- require children and young people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering while on dedicated school transport while the prevalence is high
- ensure dedicated school transport is included on the school's COVID risk assessment
- follow the school's 'good hygiene for everyone' and 'appropriate cleaning regimes' as set out in the Control Measures on page 6
- avoid over crowding
- ensure windows are open to provide appropriate ventilation.

For further precaution guidance on dedicated school transport, see [Transport to schools and colleges step4](#)

Early years

This document refers to the whole school including early years.

For further precaution guidance on early years, see [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers schools and colleges during the coronavirus covid 19 outbreak step 4](#)

Covid-19 Contingency Plan

Summary

This contingency plan describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of Coronavirus (COVID-19) (including responding to variants of concern) at Kingswood House School (KHS), covering:

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

Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) can recommend measures described here as part of their outbreak management responsibilities. Where there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis.

Who is this plan for?

This plan is for all pupils and staff (including temporary, peripatetic and volunteers) at KHS.

Introduction

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) or to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

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.

Prioritising education

The overarching objective is to maximise the number of pupils in face-to-face education and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.

We recognise that the impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for pupils. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission will be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

KHS, in line with Government advice, will endeavour to keep any measures for the shortest amount of time possible.

KHS, in line with Government advice, will keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Measures affecting education will not be considered in isolation, but as part of a broader package of measures. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a last resort.

KHS, in line with government advice, will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes to the way we operate.

When KHS will consider extra action

KHS will seek public health advice if either of the following thresholds are triggered:

- 5 pupils or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

KHS will seek public health advice if a pupil or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19 by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1), or in line with other local arrangements. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern.

When the above thresholds are reached, KHS will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures we already have in place. There is more detail on this at the end of this plan.

KHS may wish to seek additional public health advice if we are concerned about transmission in school, either by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1) or in line with other local arrangements.

A director of public health or an HPT may give KHS advice reflecting the local situation. In areas where rates are high, this may include advice that local circumstances mean that the thresholds for extra action can be higher than set out above. If they judge that additional action should be taken, they might advise KHS to take some or all of the other measures described in this document, for example extra testing.

For all cases relating to staff, further guidance for workplaces should be referred to:

[NHS Test and Trace in the workplace](#)

KHS will call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715 as soon as we are made aware that any of our staff have tested positive.

If cases amongst staff mean we meet the threshold, described above, KHS will need to provide the 8-digit NHS Test and Trace Account ID (sometimes referred to as a CTAS number) of the person who tested positive, alongside the names of co-workers identified as close contacts. This will ensure that all workplace contacts are registered with NHS Test and Trace and can receive the necessary public health advice, including the support available to help people to self-isolate. Further guidance is available [here](#)

Measures that KHS have planned for

Testing and positive results

KHS have asked that pupils and staff increase their Lateral Flow testing to twice weekly before returning to school.

Pupils in year 7 and above should be **tested on site** at an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) on return in the spring term 2022.

KHS have arranged for all pupils in year 7 and above to be tested on site (if consent is given) on the first day of term, Thursday 6th January 2022.

Thereafter, staff and pupils in year 7 and above should **test themselves using LFD twice a week at home** until reviewed. This is critical for identifying positive cases early and ensuring they isolate.

Those who test positive should isolate, take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and continue to isolate if the result is positive.

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. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate. 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. Further guidance can be found [here](#) for close contacts of someone who has tested positive and lives in the same household, and [here](#) for those who do not live together.

KHS will continue to ensure **good hygiene** for everyone, maintain appropriate **cleaning regimes**, keep occupied spaces **well ventilated**, and follow public health advice on testing and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

KHS will continue their **strong messaging about signs and symptoms**, isolation advice and testing, to support prompt isolation of suspected cases. KHS also continue to encourage vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff.

Face coverings

KHS are prepared for the possibility of reintroducing the wearing of face coverings should the government guidance recommend it. This may include face coverings in communal areas and/or classrooms, for pupils and staff. KHS will continue to allow for reasonable exemptions.

As from 4th January, it is recommended that all pupils in year 7 and above, wear face coverings in the classroom unless exempt or during physical education.

Pupils in year 6 and below will not be advised to wear face coverings.

In all cases any educational and wellbeing drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings will be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission.

Shielding

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people 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.

Other measures

KHS are aware and prepared for the possibility that we might be advised to limit:

- residential educational visits
- open days
- transition or taster days
- parental attendance in settings
- live performances in settings

Attendance restrictions

High quality face-to-face education remains a KHS priority. Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort:

- on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission; or

- on government advice in order to suppress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

In all circumstances, priority will continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend to their normal timetables.

Where measures include attendance restrictions, DfE may advise on any other groups that should be prioritised. KHS are aware and prepared for the possibility that we may be advised, temporarily, to limit attendance and will ensure that high quality remote education is provided to all pupils not attending in the same format as the previous remote learning procedure via Teams.

Other considerations where attendance has been restricted

Remote education

High-quality remote learning will be provided for all pupils if:

- they have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home; or
- attendance at KHS has been temporarily restricted.

On-site provision will in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers.

Education workforce

If restrictions on pupil attendance are ever needed, the Headmaster, Mr Duncan Murphy, will determine the workforce required onsite and if it is appropriate for some staff to work remotely.

KHS will have regard to the guidance on [clinically extremely vulnerable people](#).

Safeguarding and designated safeguarding leads

There should be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

- local authorities
- clinical commissioning groups
- chief officers of police

If attendance restrictions are needed we would expect all local safeguarding partners to be vigilant and responsive to all safeguarding threats with the aim of keeping vulnerable children and young people safe, particularly as more children and young people will be learning remotely.

KHS will continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including:

- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework

Whilst KHS is operating, there will always be a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site.

In the rare occasions a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, a member of the senior leader team will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

Vulnerable children and young people

Where vulnerable children are absent, KHS will:

- 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
- encourage the child or young person to attend school, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker agrees that the child's attendance would be appropriate
- focus the discussions on the welfare of the child and ensuring that the child is able to access appropriate education and support while they are at home
- 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.

Transport

KHS will attempt to continue to be provided the scheduled minibus service as normal where children are attending school. The guidance on transport to schools and colleges during the COVID-19 pandemic guidance remains in place.

School meals

KHS will continue to provide meal options for all pupils who are in school.

Educational visits

Any attendance restrictions will be reflected in the KHS Covid-19 risk assessment and will be considered carefully if the educational visit is still appropriate and safe. Only students who are attending KHS should go on an educational visit. KHS will consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.