



Beaufort School Contingency and Outbreak Plan- March 2022

1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), published by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), directors of public health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- ✓ To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
 - There are 2 positive cases among pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
- ✓ If COVID-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high, and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- ✓ As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)
- ✓ To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. The Head of School will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687) or Birmingham Contact and Trace

3. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our school, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

4. Face coverings

If recommended, pupils, staff and visitors who are not exempt from wearing a face covering:

- ✓ Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at school and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas

And/or:

- ✓ Will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity

✓ 5. 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 about additional protective measures in school or arrangements for home working or learning

6. Other measures

Parents, carers, pupils and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email/letters sent home with pupils, once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- ✓ Educational visits
- ✓ Open days
- ✓ Transition or taster days
- ✓ Parents coming into school
- ✓ Live performances/Assemblies

If recommended, we will reintroduce:

- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups

7. Attendance restrictions

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

7.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- ✓ Vulnerable pupils
- ✓ Children of critical workers

7.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our Remote Learning policy

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

7.3 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection 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.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by contacting the school directly on 0121 675 8500, who will get in touch with the DSL directly

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable pupils are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where appropriate, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Ensure vulnerable pupils can access appropriate education and support while at home

Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision

Beaufort School COVID-19 operational guidance – September 2001 (if step 4 of the roadmap has commenced)

<u>DFE Guidance</u>	<u>Beaufort School operational plans</u>
<u>Tracing Close Contacts</u> Key changes from 19th July • Schools, colleges and EY settings will no longer carry out routine contact tracing. • Close contacts will be identified and contacted by NHS Test and Trace (Essex Contact Tracing Team). • Schools, colleges and EY settings will not routinely be contacted to provide details of close contacts. They may be contacted in exceptional cases. • Symptomatic individuals, and those who record a positive test, will still need to isolate in line with current guidance. This means, from Monday 6th September 2021, if there is a positive case within school or, we no longer need to isolate the whole bubble or other identified contacts as we have been doing up to now. Individuals will be contacted by test and trace if they need to isolate and they must follow this advice. Key changes from 16th August • Close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 years old will not need to self-isolate. • All close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test. • If that PCR test result is positive, the individual must isolate and NHS Test and Trace (Birmingham Contact Tracing Team) will then work with them to identify any of their own close contacts who will follow the same procedure. What is not changing • Anyone who has symptoms must isolate and take a PCR test • Individuals who return a positive LFT result will need to self-isolate immediately and order a confirmatory PCR test. • Household contacts must still isolate with the individual who has tested positive – this is now confirmed information. • Self-isolate and household isolate remains as 10 days	There will be two risk assessments on the website: The Covid 2022 Risk Assessment, living with COVID to be added to the website If advised to reintroduce measures by Public Health England (PHE), this will be reviewed and previous mitigation measures introduced. Parents/carers will be notified via text and email As an enhanced measure, we may need to ask children to isolate if their individual risk assessment requires them to do so.
<u>Face Coverings</u>	Parents are not expected to wear masks on site, nor

Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, they are still optional for some staff/visitors if they wish to wear them	staff/visitors in corridors or communal areas. However, people are most welcome to wear one should they wish to. In the event of an outbreak and if directed to by Public Health England, staff and parents would be expected to wear masks on site (see outbreak management plan).
<u>Stepping measures up and down</u> If you have several confirmed cases within 14 days, the school may have an outbreak. Schools should 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 your outbreak management plan. Schools can reach them 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.	See School specific Outbreak management plan Beaufort School will liaise with PHE if they have 2 or more positive cases within a class within a 10 day period This may include, re-introducing social distancing and masks in communal areas.
<u>Control measures</u> You should: 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. 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. 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). <u>If anyone in your school develops</u>	1. During the day, a member of staff in each year should wipe high frequency touch surfaces e.g. door handles in their bays with an anti-bacterial wipe. 2. Pupils and staff will continue with frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitiser. Hand sanitizer will be continued to be provided. 3. Red bins for used tissues will be in place in all school areas and will be emptied daily. 4. Areas will be continued to be well ventilated. 5. Quarantine rooms will still be in place, VIP room in juniors and front office in the infants 6. New air quality monitors have been purchased and installed into the old building. These are already in place in the new building

<u>COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, schools should send them home and they should follow public health advice.</u> 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 should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should 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 should 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.	
<u>Asymptomatic Testing</u> This is being recommended for settings such as special schools	Staff to continue 2x weekly testing until at least the end of the Spring term on April 8th
<u>Confirmatory PCR tests</u> Due to the nature of our the needs of our pupils, staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance.	Where a person tests positive (<i>lateral flow device test [LFD] or PCR</i>) they must not attend school for at least 5 full days. Some people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. A LFD test can be taken from 5 days after symptoms started (<i>or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms</i>) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and staff and pupils can return to school - if they are well enough to do so. We will continue to provide lateral flow tests to staff while we can access these. If you are isolating, please report daily LFD tests from day 5 directly to the Head of School via email or text.

<u>Clinically vulnerable children and adults</u> All 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 GP or clinician not to attend. Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus. Staff in schools who are CEV should currently attend their place of work if they cannot work from home.	Follow DFE/PHE guidance Beaufort school will identify high risk pupils who may be at greater risk of infection
<u>Admitting children into school</u> 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 your school, you 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. Your decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.	Continue with current operational arrangements. To clarify: If a pupil has symptoms at school, we will send them home and ask that they do not return until they have had a negative LFD and the child no longer has symptoms
<u>Attendance</u> School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. 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.	Follow DFE guidance
<u>Remote Education</u> Beaufort School will 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. The remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school	
<u>Educational Visits</u>	<u>When booking future educational trips, the school will</u>

Given the likely gap in COVID-19 related cancellation insurance, if you are considering booking a new visit, whether domestic or international, you are advised to ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place. You should speak to either your visit provider, commercial insurance company, or the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available. Independent advice on insurance cover and options can be sought from the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) or Association of British Insurers (ABI). Any school holding ATOL or ABTA refund credit notes may use these credit notes to rebook educational or international visits. You should 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).	<u>ensure the review will include a check on whether financial protection is adequate.</u> <u>The risk assessments and review of outside providers will also include;</u> - <u>Hygiene</u> - <u>Ventilation</u> <u>Outbreak procedures</u>
<u>School meals</u> The school will continue to provide free school meal support to any pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are learning at home during term time.	

This Outbreak Management Plan (OMP) outlines how the school will operate if additional measures are recommended for our setting or the local area. The Director of Public Health, Public Health England Health Protection Teams or the Local Authority could recommend certain measures are re-introduced. This may happen to help manage outbreaks in schools, or if there is an “extremely high prevalence” of Covid-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission, or as part of a package of measures “responding to a variant of concern”.

REFERENCE	CONTROL MEASURE	YES	NO	N/A	ACTIONS TAKEN
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1	If there is significant concern that existing or recently introduced measures in an area have failed to mitigate community transmission, or that a more robust response is required to contain the outbreak of a VoC it may be necessary to limit the number of children and young people in education or childcare settings through attendance restrictions.	√			Attendance restrictions will only be considered as a last resort following the DfE's 'contingency framework' and, in collaboration with public health and the local authority. in this case, school will: Ensure remote learning platform is in place and accessible to all. That provision is in place for vulnerable children and key worker children to attend (as per national lockdowns).
2	When a variant of COVID-19 is classed as a variant of concern (VoC), Local Authority will increase targeted testing in that area to help suppress and control any possible new cases and better understand the new variants.	√			Increased use of testing for staff where appropriate
3	Temporary re-introduction of year/class bubbles, for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups	√			Strict class bubbles re-implemented in consultation with PHE Staggered entrance/ exit times will remain in place Use of multiple entrances and exits will remain in place Staggered/ limited use of communal areas- hall/ dining room will remain in place. Bubbles re-introduced on transport if possible
4	Temporary re-introduction of face	√			If re-introduced, then face coverings must be worn by staff and visitors, in communal areas unless they are exempt.

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	coverings.				
5	In all cases any educational drawbacks in the recommended use of face coverings should be balanced with the benefits in managing transmission and should allow for reasonable exemptions for their use.	√			Face coverings will not be worn by pupils at Beaufort School. Staff will have the option of choosing whether they wish to wear a mask. However, those supporting children with intimate care, will be asked to wear a mask, whilst they carry out their duties.
6	Temporary re-introduction of shielding in the event of a major outbreak or variant of concern that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list.	√			Shielding can only be re-introduced by national government Individual risk assessments regularly reviewed and specifically in line with any updated government guidance regarding CEV. However, there may be individual circumstances that mean PHE support is requested to support the school and/or families Remote learning platform in place for children who are advised to shield.
7	Temporary limit to certain school activities; - Educational visits - open days - transition and taster days - parental attendance in settings - performances and assemblies in settings	√			These will all be risk assessed and control measures put in place as and when required. Meetings with professionals should continue to be facilitated using digital technology where possible. If visitors are required onsite, then proof of a negative lateral flow tests will be requested

