

## COVID-19 Risk Assessment – The Forest School - February 2022

The technical name of the virus that causes COVID-19 is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, abbreviated as **SARS-CoV-2**. Whilst the COVID-19 virus can cause serious illness, especially for vulnerable adults with underlying health conditions, evidence suggests that for the majority (particularly children and young people) they will experience a mild to moderate illness.

We are aware that from Thursday 27 January 2022, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas, classrooms or teaching spaces for staff and pupils in year 7 and above.

Whilst cases in school remain high, we will continue with the arrangements put in place on 2 January 2022 in response to the Omicron variant. Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas, and staff and pupils in year 7 and above will wear face coverings in classrooms and teaching spaces when it does not impede communication, support or teaching and learning.

Our risk assessment has been developed based on the principle that we will act together to ensure the safety and reassurance of all staff and children.

Risk Area	Hazard	Mitigation	Responsible Person
<b>General Health and Safety - Sanitisation of building</b>			
Insufficient Cleaning	<p><b>There is increasing evidence indicating that the transmittance of COVID-19 via hard surfaces is not a major source of infection.</b></p> <p>There is a very small risk that the virus could be present on hard surfaces in the school building which could be a source of transmission.</p> <p>If the virus is present and staff or children come into contact with this, then there is a very small chance that they could become infected with COVID-19.</p>	<p>Ensure that hand sanitiser is available at entry points to the school.</p> <p>Ensure soap and water/hand sanitiser is available and that all ensure hand cleanliness on entry into classrooms.</p> <p>Regular cleaning of all surfaces.</p> <p>Stocks of cleaning chemicals, liquid soap, paper towels, tissues, toilet roll, bin bags etc. regularly checked and additional supplies requested as necessary.</p> <p>Ensure that anti-bacterial spray or wipes are available in each classroom and encourage use throughout the day.</p>	Estates team
Spread of COVID-19 to staff, children, families, visitors and contractors	Staff, pupils or visitors may be COVID-19 positive.	<p>Contact with individuals who are unwell is minimised by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do not attend school.</p> <p>All secondary pupils and all staff are asked to take a LFD test twice weekly (on Sunday evening or Monday morning, and Wednesday evening or Thursday morning).</p> <p>In response to the Omicron variant, face coverings are now required by all non-exempt adults in communal areas. This applies to all visitors. All staff are continuing to test twice each week and recommendations have been made that all colleagues access the booster vaccine.</p> <p><b>Following guidance on 2 January 2022, secondary pupils will wear face coverings in the classroom and communal areas (if able to) and staff working in secondary classrooms will wear face coverings, where this does not impact on the pupils' access to learning, support or communication.</b></p> <p><b>Secondary aged pupils (if able to) will wear face coverings on transport.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges#face-coverings">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges#face-coverings</a></p>	<p>All stakeholders</p> <p>All stakeholders</p>

		<p>Parents and carers have been requested to take an LFD test prior to coming into school.</p> <p>Whilst fully vaccinated close contacts of positive cases will no longer be required to self-isolate if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive from COVID-19, they will now be required to do daily LFD tests.</p>	
	Staff and pupils need sufficient opportunity throughout the day to implement effective hand washing.	<p>Sneeze into a tissue or sleeve, NEVER into hands. Wash hands immediately after. Used tissues to be put in a bin immediately.</p> <p>Staff, children and visitors will be reminded to wash their hands before leaving home, on arrival at the premises and before eating/drinking, after using the toilet, and not to touch face with hands that are not clean.</p> <p>The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is promoted.</p> <p>Alcohol based hand cleansers/gels (containing at least 60% alcohol) can be used but only if soap and water are not available. This is not a substitute for hand washing. Such gels MUST ONLY BE USED UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION.</p> <p>Follow Hand Washing protocol:  <a href="https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/">https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/</a></p> <p>Soap and water, and regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds, is the best way of staying safe. Handwashing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available, or the situation makes using soap less feasible (for example, when outside), but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.</p> <p>Staff and children should be reminded to wash their hands more frequently than normal, including on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.</p>	All
H&S and behaviour protocols	Staff may not have appropriate knowledge of virus transmission and risk.	<p>All staff to keep themselves updated and follow the latest <a href="#">Government</a> and national Public Health England/NHS guidelines via <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a></p> <p>Staff to follow PHE guidance for administering first aid and follow handwashing protocol.</p>	All staff
Contact with and spread of COVID-19	Staff members may come into contact with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.	<p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they MUST be sent home and advised to follow the guidance which sets out that they must self-isolate and <a href="#">arrange to have a test</a> to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p>If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms in school or if a child has been in close contact with them, they do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves or unless they are subsequently contacted by NHS Test</p>	All staff

		<p>and Trace as having been in contact with someone who has tested positive for the Omicron variant.</p> <p>Staff and children MUST NOT come to school if they are displaying symptoms and MUST take a PCR test if they are displaying such symptoms. School is no longer responsible for track and trace arrangements.</p> <p>If someone tests positive, they must isolate in line with government guidance.</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044530/Schools_guidance_Jan_22.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044530/Schools_guidance_Jan_22.pdf</a></p>	
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
Ventilation	Inadequate ventilation may restrict air flow which may contribute to circulation of the virus if it is present in the building.	<p>Ventilate spaces with outdoor air where possible. Ensure adequate ventilation as per regulations. Adjust heating to allow ventilation.</p> <p>Where possible prop doors/windows open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding). Note: Fire doors must not be propped open unless they have a self-closing/hold open device fitted.</p>	All staff
<b>Possible or confirmed infection</b>			
Possible infection	Individuals may develop symptoms of COVID-19.	<p>Children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, are told not to attend or enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.</p> <p>If anyone develops symptoms of coronavirus, they will need to go home, and take a PCR test.</p> <p>Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.</p>	All
Quarantine facilities	Someone on school site may develop symptoms.	<p>Everyone is advised not to attend school if they are displaying symptoms.</p> <p>If anyone develops symptoms of coronavirus, they are sent home and advised to take a PCR test.</p> <p>If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell in school, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance.</p> <p>If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell, they do not need to go home. If the person whom they have helped goes on to have a positive test, then daily LFD tests will be required by close contacts.</p> <p>Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.</p>	All
<b>Services</b>			
Estates and cleaning teams	<p>There could be insufficient cleaners to keep the building safe.</p> <p>Cleaning staff may be exposed to undue social contact as they go into different classes.</p>	<p>Assurances sought that all cleaners are available; early notification where this is not the case. Decision will be made by SLT about the safety or otherwise of the building in the absence of the cleaning staff.</p> <p>Cleaning staff to work outside times when pupils are in school and teaching staff to wear face covering if cleaner enters room.</p>	<p>Business Manager, SLT</p> <p>All</p>