



## LINCOLN ANGLICAN ACADEMY TRUST COVID OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 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. The DfE's published COVID Contingency Framework states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

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

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

In these cases, the Guidance also states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting is:

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific non-residential setting with illness onset dates within 14 days, and one of the following:

- identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases
- when there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases

An outbreak is deemed to last 28 days from the last positive diagnosis.

This plan should be read alongside the school's COVID Risk Assessment and the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID (this is not an exhaustive list and these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance).

This plan sets out how schools in Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust will respond.



## **Prioritising Education**

The impacts of having missed education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Decision-makers should endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Decision-makers should keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.

Attendance restrictions should only ever be considered as a last resort. Where measures include attendance restrictions, the Department for Education (DfE) may advise on any groups that should be prioritised. In addition, restrictions may be advised by local teams for individual settings or clusters of closely linked settings.

In line with current guidance, if some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children of reception year 1 and year 2, pupils in year 7 and pupils due to take external exams should still be allowed to attend. If attendance is restricted still further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend unless otherwise advised by Public Health England or another relevant Body.

Where vulnerable children and young people are absent, school leaders 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 educational provision, working with the local authority and social worker (where applicable), particularly where the social worker and the Head Teacher/Head of School/Executive Head Teacher agrees that the child or young person's attendance would be appropriate
- 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
- 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 settings have to temporarily stop onsite provision on public health advice, they should discuss alternative arrangements for vulnerable children and young people with the local authority.

As with other periods of restricted attendance, schools will continue to provide high quality remote education for all pupils or those not attending.



### **Responding to an outbreak within a School**

The best way to avoid an outbreak in a setting is to ensure preventative measures are in place. Within all settings the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment for each setting that reflects the current Government Guidance
- Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with Guidance
- Hand sanitiser will be freely available
- LFT testing will be available for staff, visitors and secondary pupils

Should an outbreak be identified, the following steps will be undertaken:

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information
- Schools will follow their LA guidance for notification
- In collaboration with Public Health and the Chief Executive, a decision will be made as to whether school can remain open
- DfE will be informed if the school is to close
- LA will be informed if the school is to close
- In liaison with Public Health, if the school is a test site, on site testing will be reinstated
- Remote learning plan will be implemented
- External visits to the school will stop until deemed safe
- School COVID Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new case

### **Responding to the implementation of local or National measures**

Schools will work with the Trust central team to ensure that they implement any local or National restrictions or guidance. Schools will work in collaboration with professionals and stakeholders to limit the impact on educational delivery. This will include working with the following:

- Parents/carers
- Pupils
- Public Health
- Local Authority
- Social Care
- DfE

Risk assessments will be reviewed and updated as the situation evolves.

### **School workforce**

In addition to the schools' general COVID risk assessment, colleagues who are clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable, pregnant, BAME or who consider themselves to have particular characteristics that may put them more at risk will have an individual risk assessment.



Line Managers will continue to review these risk assessments with the individual concerned and ensure that agreed protective measures are in place.

### **Safeguarding**

It is expected that all schools have a DSL on site, if this is not possible, the Head Teacher or Executive Teacher will take on the responsibility for liaising with the Deputy Chief Executive to maintain safeguarding and remote support.

Wellbeing calls will be made regularly (in line with individual pupil risk assessments) to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

### **Meals**

Meals will continue to be provided for those on site. Pupils in receipt of free school meals who are not on site will either be provided with vouchers or food for the time the pupil is isolating, or the school is restricting attendance.

### **IT Access**

As part of the school remote learning plan, details will be held of who requires a device to be provided. These will be available to be collected from school or, if there is prior warning, they will be distributed prior to class/school closures.

Part of the wellbeing calls will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required.