

COVID 19 Protective Measures Risk Assessment from March 2023 St Mark and All Saints C of E Primary School and Nursery

This assessment enables the Trust to implement its recovery planning around a range of 'protective measures' from 1st September 2021. As most of the country has now moved to Step 4 of the government roadmap, this risk assessment has been updated to reflect the changes.

This COVID 19 protective measures risk assessment is based on the Surrey County Council Recovery Planning Team template that has been quality assured by Public Health Surrey. The Good Shepherd Trust has oversight of the template for all Trust schools. All School leaders have had an opportunity to inform this assessment, and will be responsible for implementing the localised operating protocols for each school.

All Trust staff will all have an opportunity to inform the successful implementation of recommended controls, mitigation and protective Measures.

In recognition of the dynamic situation, this risk assessment will be reviewed or superseded where guidance from the government changes, or where improvements are required following implementation by the Trust and Schools at a local level (daily or weekly). This Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with individual school Covid Outbreak Management Plans. This assessment should be used alongside the government guidance below:

Covid-19 Contingency Framework.

Surrey County Council local outbreak control plan

Hampshire County Council local outbreak control plan

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Last Updated March 2022

	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Awareness of		All staff are aware of all relevant policies and				
and adherence to		procedures including, but not limited to, the following			1	
policies and		Health and Safety Policy, Infection Control Arrangements			In place and	
procedures	Н	from Public Health Agency, First Aid Policy / risk	V	Lload	updated when	
	п	assessment2. School leaders and other relevant staff have regard to	Υ	Head	necessary	L
		all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not				
	Н	limited to, the following:				L
		a. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and		Head		
		Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)				
	Н	2013	Υ		Sept 1 st 2021	
		b. The Health Protection (Notification)		Head	Sept 1 st 2021	
	Н	Regulations 2010	Υ		-	L
		c. Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health		Head	Sept 1 st 2021	
		protection in schools and other childcare facilities'	V			
	Н	d. DofE Contingency Framework: education and	Υ	Head	Sept 1 st 2021	
	н	childcare settings	Υ	liteau	Sept 1 2021	L
		The relevant staff receive any necessary training that	•	Head	Sept 1 st 2021	_
		helps minimise the spread of infection, e.g. infection			'	
	Н	control training.	Υ			M
		4. School leaders keep up-to-date with advice issued by,		Head	In place and	
		but not limited to, the following: DfE; NHS; Department			under constant	
	Н	of Health and Social Care; PHE	Υ		review	L
		5. Staff are made aware of the school's infection control		Head	Sept 1 st 2021	
	Н	procedures in relation to coronavirus via email;	Υ			M

	Н	6. Parents are made aware of the school's infection control procedures in relation to coronavirus via letter/ social media/school website – they are informed that they must not send their child to school if the child develops coronavirus symptoms or if another household member develops coronavirus symptoms. In both these circumstances the parents/carers should call the school to inform the school of this and that they will be following the latest national Stay at Home guidance. 7. Pupils are made aware of the school's infection control procedures in relation to coronavirus and are informed that they must tell a member of staff if they begin to feel unwell. 8. Data Protection including confidentiality	Y	Head All staff	Sept 1st 2021 In place and under constant review In place and	M
		arrangements are followed at all times – this includes withholding the names of staff and pupils with either			under constant review	
	Н	confirmed or suspected cases of coronavirus.	Υ	All staff		L
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell with COVID-19 symptoms	Н	1. If a pupil or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test they will 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).	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М

Н		If anyone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.	Υ	Head/SLT	In place and under constant review	M
Н	2.	For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.	Y	School community	In place and under constant review	M
H	3.	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.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	4.	If anyone in the school 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 are sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M

Н		Everyone will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with usual school cleaning products after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare (Appendix 1) settings guidance. Spillages of bodily fluids, e.g. respiratory and nasal discharges, are cleaned up immediately in line	Y	Head/Site team	In place and under constant review	M
Н	7.	with the Infection Control. PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). More information on PPE use can be found in the <u>safe</u> working in education, childcare and children's <u>social care settings</u> , including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	8. 9.	In an emergency, 999 should be called if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. Any medication given to ease the unwell individual's symptoms, e.g. paracetamol, is administered in accordance with the Administering Medications Policy	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М

	Н	10. Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test & Trace.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Face Coverings	Н	 As of Feb 2022 face coverings are no longer required for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas in response to the Omicron variant however, in line with current guidance, visitors can be encouraged to wear them in communal areas. 	Y	Head	In pace and all staff updated	M
	Н	Temporary Additional Measures in the event of an Outbreak 2. In the event of an outbreak, Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - will be referred to in reimplementing the use of face coverings.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
		 Face coverings will temporarily be re-introduced for visitors, unless exempt. Staff will only gather in communal areas with adults from their own class bubble. If this is not possible face masks should be worn. 				
		 Transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. 				
		 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 should 				

		only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately.				
Educational Visits	Н	 The school will liaise with either its visit provider, or the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available. 	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	М
	Н	 The school will undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as travel and hygiene, ventilation and isolation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. 	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	M
	Н	 3. Wraparound childcare and other organised activities for children may take place in groups of any number. 4. Providers caring for children: a. under 5 years only should refer to the guidance for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic b. both under 5 years and aged 5 years and over, in mixed groups together, should follow the guidance on actions for out-of-school settings. Where the school premises are hired for use by external wraparound childcare providers, such as after-school or holiday clubs, these organisations will: c. consider the relevant government guidance for their sector d. put in place protective measures. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M

		e. Comply with Trust/school policies, procedures and letting agreements				
Wrap Around Activities	Н	 All sports provision, including competition between settings, should be planned and delivered in line with government guidance. Providers of sports activities will also refer to: a. guidance on grassroot sports for public and sport providers, safe provision and facilities, and guidance from Sport England b. advice from organisations such as the Association for Physical Education and the Youth Sport Trust guidance from Swim England on school swimming and water safety lessons available at returning to pools guidance documents 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Sports Provision	Н	 Singing, wind and brass instrument lessons can be undertaken, following guidance provided by the DCMS at the time of the trip working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): performing arts. If planning an indoor or outdoor face-to-face performance in front of a live audience, the school will also follow the latest advice in the DCMS working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): performing arts. 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	M

Performances, Events and Music	Н	1. Some measures may be implemented at the discretion of the school leaders.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Implementing social distancing	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
	Н	1. Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission. When the school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. These can be achieved by a variety of measures including:	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М
		a. mechanical ventilation systems – these should be 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 should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if not, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply				
		b. natural ventilation – opening windows (in cooler weather windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air				

c. natural ventilation – if necessary external	
opening doors may also be used (as long	
as they are not fire doors and where safe	
to do so) The <u>Health and Safety Executive</u>	
guidance on air conditioning and	
ventilation during the coronavirus	
outbreak and CIBSE coronavirus	
(COVID-19) advice provides more	
information.	
To balance the need for increased ventilation	
while maintaining a comfortable temperature,	
the following will be considered:	
a. opening high level windows in colder	
weather in preference to low level to	
reduce draughts	
b. increasing the ventilation while spaces	
are unoccupied (for example, between	
classes, during break and lunch, when a	
room is unused)	
c. providing flexibility to allow additional,	
suitable indoor clothing	
d. rearranging furniture where possible to	
avoid direct draughts	
e. Heating to be used as necessary to	
ensure comfort levels are maintained	
particularly in occupied spaces.	

Ventilation	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
		The COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance is followed (See Appendix 1)	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Hygiene Practice	Н	 Sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitisers in classrooms and other learning environments 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
	Н	 Surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters are cleaned more regularly than normal; 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
		 3. All adults and children are told to: a. Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly b. clean their hands on arrival at school, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing; c. Posters are displayed throughout the school reminding pupils to wash their hands, e.g. before entering and leaving the school. 4. Children are encouraged not to touch their 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	mouth, eyes and nose				

	5 Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')				
Н	 Help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently; Young children are encouraged to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Н	Bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day; bins should be lidded to prevent infection transmission	Y	Site team	In place and under constant review	L
Н	 Additional alcohol-based sanitiser (that contains no less than 70% percent alcohol) is provided for use if there is no access to soap and water 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Н	Instructions should be given to everyone that toilets should be flushed with closed lids.	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Н	 Infection control procedures are adhered to as much as possible in accordance with the DfE and PHE's guidance. 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Н	10. Sufficient amounts of soap (or hand sanitiser where applicable), clean water, paper towels and waste disposal bins are supplied in all toilets and kitchen areas.	Y	Site team	In place and under constant review	L
Н	 Bar soap is not used, in line with the Infection Control Policy – liquid soap dispensers are installed and used instead. 	Y	Site team	In place and under constant review	L
Н	12. Pupils do not share cutlery, cups or food.	Υ	All staff	In place and under constant review	L

	Н	13. All utensils are thoroughly cleaned before and after use.	Y	Kitchen team	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	14. Alcohol wipes should be used to clean all touch surfaces in communal offices e.g. PC keyboard, mouse, screen, table top, phone etc	Υ	All staff	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	15. Cleaners are employed by the school to carry out daily, thorough cleaning that follows national guidance and is compliant with the COSHH Policy and the Health and Safety Policy.	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	The SBM arranges enhanced cleaning to be undertaken where required – advice about enhanced cleaning protocols is sought from the local health team.	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	н	 Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Staff and pupils with a positive LFD or PCR test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Promote and Engage in Testing	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
	Н	1. Individual risk assessments produced by the most appropriate person identifying additional hazards due to the behaviours exhibited which might require restraint e.g. spitting, biting etc.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L

Spread of	Н	2. Appropriate PPE will be provided as identified in the risk assessment and may include disposable aprons, gloves, eye and mask protection	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	3. Reduced timetable / exclusion / inclusion considered if necessary if children are acting in a way that staff are put at risk, in accordance with the school behaviour policy. 4. Walkie talkie or other means of communication available for the member of staff, as appropriate.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
infection when dealing with a child needing 1:1 support	Н	4. A member of SLT is on "duty" and will hold a walkie talkie or other communication available so can be summoned in the event of an issue escalating	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	5.Staff are informed of the symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, e.g. a cough, difficulty in breathing and high temperature, and are kept up-to-date with national guidance about the signs, symptoms and transmission of coronavirus.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	 Any pupil who displays signs of being unwell is immediately referred to the designated first aider/school nurse. 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	M
III Health	Н	2. Where the first aider/school nurse is unavailable, staff act in line with the infection control arrangement and ensure that any unwell pupils are moved to an empty room whilst they wait for their parent to collect them. Staff supervising this should wear appropriate PPE ie apron, gloves and FFP2 mask if there is a risk of sharing bodily fluids.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M

Risk rating prior to	Recommended controls/	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following
Н	10. Parents are advised to contact 999 if their child becomes seriously ill or their life is at risk.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	 If unwell pupils are waiting to go home, they are instructed to use different toilets to the rest of the school to minimise the spread of infection 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
н	 Areas used by unwell pupils who need to go home are thoroughly cleaned once vacated. PPE as above should be worn 	Y	Site team	In place and under constant review	M
Н	 Unwell pupils who are waiting to go home are kept in an area where they can be at least two metres away from others. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
π	 Where contact with a pupil's parents cannot be made, appropriate procedures are followed in accordance with those outlined in governmental guidance and the Infection Control Policy. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	The parents of an unwell pupil are informed as soon as possible of the situation by a relevant member of staff.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	The relevant member of staff calls for emergency assistance immediately if the pupil's symptoms worsen.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М
н	 Pupils displaying symptoms of coronavirus do not come in to contact with other pupils and as few staff as possible, whilst still ensuring the pupil is safe. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М

	action - H/M/L	Mitigation and Protective Measures				action - H/M/L
	Н	Spillages of bodily fluids, e.g. respiratory and nasal discharges, are cleaned up immediately in line with the Infection Control Policy and the DFE's Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance (Appendix 1).	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
	M	Pupils are instructed to cough or sneeze into their elbow and use a tissue to cover their mouths where possible, disposing of the tissue in waste disposal units with lids	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	L
	M	Pupils clean their hands after they have coughed or sneezed.	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	L
	М	Instruct everyone that toilets should be flushed with closed lids	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	L
Spread of infection	Н	 Anyone dealing with deliveries should follow the hand washing protocol after dealing with the items. 	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	M
	н	 Parents are informed via letter not to bring their children to school or on the school premises if they show signs of being unwell and believe they have been exposed to coronavirus. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М
	Н	5. Children who have displayed symptoms of coronavirus must self-isolate for 5 days before returning to school to avoid risks of transmission.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M

Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Н	Staff are made aware of the symptoms of coronavirus following the latest NHS information .	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	 Staff are vigilant and report concerns about a pupil's symptoms to a first aider/school nurse. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	 The school is consistent in its approach to the management of suspected and confirmed cases of coronavirus. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
Н	4. If a pupil or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive LFD or PCR test they will 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).	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М
Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Н	Risk assessment, control measures and operational procedures shared with all staff members	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L

	Н	Regular means of communicating with staff to discuss concerns and review shared control measures / operational procedures	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Wellbeing for staff	н	3. Staff will be reminded of Education Support	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	4. At least one SLT member of staff on site every day for staff to share concerns with	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	н	 The risk assessment will be reviewed or where changes are required following feedback from staff – daily, weekly etc or where it is superseded by guidance from the government. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
	н	 Children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, are told not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	M
	Н	The first aider reports immediately to the headteacher about any cases of suspected coronavirus, even if they are unsure;	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	М
Communication	н	 Schools keep pupils and parents adequately updated about any changes to infection control procedures as necessary; 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	 Cleaning contractors or staff are briefed on the additional cleaning requirements and agree additional hours to allow for this, as required. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L

	Н	 The school communicates with parents via letter/email regarding any updates to school procedures which are affected by the coronavirus pandemic. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
	н	 The headteacher maintains their plan for pupils' continued education during isolations, partial or full school closure to ensure there is minimal disruption to pupils' learning – this includes their plan to monitor pupils' learning while not in school, which is displayed on the school website. 	Υ	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	 The Behaviour Policy and Staff Code of Conduct are adhered to at all times, even while working remotely. 	Y	All staff	In place and under constant review	L
	н	The headteacher ensures all pupils have access to schoolwork and the necessary reading materials at home.	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
	Н	 The headteacher works with the ICT Lead to ensure that technology used is accessible to all pupils – alternative arrangements are put in place where required. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Partial School	Н	 The school manages the use of parents' and pupils' contact details in line with the Data Protection Policy and Data Retention Policy. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
Closure	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L

	М	1. All pupils' emergency contact details are up-to-date, including alternative emergency contact details, where required.	Y	Head/ Admin team	In place and under constant review	L
	М	2. Pupils' parents are contacted as soon as practicable in the event of an emergency.	Y	Head/Admi n team	In place and under constant review	L
	М	3. Pupils' alternative contacts are called where their primary emergency contact cannot be contacted	Y	Head/ Admin team	In place and under constant review	L
	М	 The school has an up-to-date First Aid Policy in place which outlines the management of medical emergencies medical emergencies are managed in line with this policy. 	Y	Head	In place and under constant review	L
1		F /				
Emergencies	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Emergencies	Risk rating prior to action -	Recommended controls/	•	By whom? Head	In place and under constant review	following action -
Emergencies	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures 1. Parents, children and young people are encouraged to	Yes/No	ŕ	In place and under constant	following action -
Emergencies	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures 1. Parents, children and young people are encouraged to walk or cycle to their education setting where possible; 2. Transport providers should provide a copy of their	Yes/No	Head	In place and under constant review In place and under constant	following action -

		4. Transport providers are advised that they do not work	Υ	Admin lead	In place and	
Transport		if they or a member of their household are displaying any			under constant	
	M	symptoms of coronavirus;			review	L
		5. Transport providers, as far as possible, are advised of	Υ	Admin lead	In place and	
		the need to follow hygiene rules and try to keep distance			under constant	
	M	from their passengers			review	L
		6. Revised travel plans are communicated clearly to	Υ	Admin lead	In place and	
		contractors, local authorities and parents where			under constant	
		appropriate (for instance, to agree pick-up and drop-off			review	
	M	times).				L

Appendix 1

Cleaning in non-healthcare settings (Version19 July 2021)

This should be read in conjunction with the latest version available online.

Background

The risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection depends on many factors, including:

- the type of surface contaminated
- the amount of virus shed from the individual
- the time the individual spent in the setting
- the time since the individual was last in the setting

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated with COVID-19 when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces and when people spend a lot of time together in the same room.

Keeping your distance, washing your hands regularly, good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues), cleaning surfaces and keeping indoor spaces well ventilated are the most important ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Increased frequency of cleaning of general room surfaces reduces the presence of the virus and the risk of contact.

The infection risk from a COVID-19 contaminated environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk from the virus, however, studies suggest that, in non-healthcare settings, the risk of residual infectious virus is likely to be significantly reduced after 48 hours.

In situations where someone has symptoms of COVID-19, it is advised that you store personal waste for 72 hours as an additional precaution.

General principles of cleaning during the COVID-19 pandemic

This section provides general cleaning advice for non-healthcare settings where no one has symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19. For guidance on cleaning where there has been a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19, please refer to the section on <u>principles of cleaning after a case has left the setting or area</u>.

There is also additional guidance for employers and businesses on working safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cleaning and disinfection

Regular cleaning plays a vital role in limiting the transmission of COVID-19.

Reducing clutter and removing difficult to clean items can make cleaning easier. Increase the frequency of 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.

As a minimum, frequently touched surfaces should be wiped down twice a day, and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. Cleaning should be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.

When cleaning surfaces, it is not necessary to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) or clothing over and above what would usually be used.

Laundry

Items should be washed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. There is no additional washing requirement above what would normally be carried out.

Kitchens and communal canteens

It is very unlikely that COVID-19 is transmitted through food. However, as a matter of good hygiene practice, anyone handling food should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before doing so.

Crockery and eating utensils should not be shared. Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

Food business operators should continue to follow the Food Standard Agency's (FSA) <u>guidance on good hygiene practices in food preparation</u>, <u>Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point</u> (HACCP) processes, and preventative practices (pre-requisite programmes (PRPs)).

Bathrooms

Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. Ensure suitable hand washing facilities are available including running water, liquid soap and paper towels or hand driers. Where cloth towels are used, these should be for individual use and laundered in accordance with washing instructions.

Waste

Waste does not need to be segregated unless an individual in the setting shows symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19.

Dispose of routine waste as normal, placing any used cloths or wipes in 'black bag' waste bins. You do not need to put them in an extra bag or store them for a time before throwing them away.

Principles of cleaning after an individual with symptoms of, or confirmed, COVID-19 has left the setting or area

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area after a person with symptoms of COVID-19, or confirmed COVID-19, has left the setting, is disposable gloves and an apron. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where someone unwell has spent the night such as in a hotel room or boarding school dormitory) then additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose may be necessary. The local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team can advise on this.

Cleaning and disinfection

Public areas where a symptomatic person has passed through and spent minimal time but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids, such as corridors, can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with should be cleaned and disinfected, including all potentially contaminated and frequently touched areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab rails in corridors and stairwells.

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings – think one site, one wipe, in one direction.

Use one of the options below:

• a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av.cl.)

or

• a household detergent followed by disinfection (1,000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants

or

• if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses

Avoid mixing cleaning products together as this can create toxic fumes. Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined in the waste section below.

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.

Laundry

Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items. To minimise the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry prior to washing.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

Waste

Personal waste from individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and waste from cleaning of areas where they have been (including PPE, disposable cloths and used tissues):

- 1. Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full
- 2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied
- 3. This should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known

This waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. It should not be placed in communal waste areas until negative test results are known, or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

If the individual tests negative, this can be disposed of immediately with the normal waste.

If COVID-19 is confirmed this waste should be stored for at least 72 hours before disposal with normal waste.

If during an emergency you need to remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. You must:

- keep it separate from your other waste
- arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste

There will be a charge for this service.

Other household waste can be disposed of as normal.