NEW FOREST SCHOOL

New Forest School COVID Outbreak Management Plan

POLICY No. nfce_gp_1026

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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), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) 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:
- As a Non-Maintained Special School
- There are 2 positive cases among students 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 Headteacher, supported by our Health & Well Being Team will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687).

3. Testing

If recommended, we will increase the use of home testing by students 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.

If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- Testing will either take place on Monday AM and Wednesday AM or daily as required.
- Testing will take place on site using specific rooms on each school site:
  - Totton: Food Tech Classroom
  - Lunedale: Staff Work Room
  - Fawley: KS2 Art Class Room
  - The above rooms meet requirements for testing resources required.
- Testing will be provided for all students who have agreed to LFD testing in the parental survey.

4. Face coverings

If recommended, students, 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. Other measures

Other measures may be required and decisions will be made jointly by the Headteacher, Director of Education, Director of Care and Head of Health & Well Being Team.

Parents, carers, students and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done personal phone calls once a decision has been made.

If required, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If required, we will reintroduce:

- Requesting students/staff awaiting PCR test results to remain at home until the result is known to reduce further transmission within school.
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups. This may include students being based on one specific school site in cases where a student moves between sites.
- Restricting access to shared resources (farm, construction hub, outdoor learning centre) to specific school sites.
- Restricting movement of staff/students between school sites/facilities.

6. Attendance restrictions

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

6.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, wherever possible we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable students
- Children of critical workers

If the numbers of staff absent leads to unsafe staff:student ratios we will look to introduce:

- Partial closure – using blended learning (face to face and online delivery via Microsoft Teams). In the case of partial closure, we will rotate students attending for face to face learning to minimise time remote learning.
- Full Closure – in this instance, all learning will switch to remote learning delivered via Microsoft Teams supported by email of resources and our virtual learning environment.

6.2 Education and support for students at home

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

6.3 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 – each school site has multiple trained DSL's.

If our DSL (or deputies) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely by phone and email.

If our DSL (or deputy) is unavailable, we will share DSL's with other New Forest School sites and/or New Forest Care Head Office.

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 students 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 students can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the student is able to access remote education provision