

## **Hartlepool Aspire Trust Outbreak Management Plan**

This Outbreak Management Plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID 19 and the school's/college's operational guidance from step 4, published by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), director 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/college
- 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)

The Trust has an up to date risk assessment in place and this is communicated to the whole staff team. In addition, appropriate information is shared with students, parents/carers, visitors and any other people impacted by the school/college activities.

The Senior Leadership Team will review the risk assessment each month to make sure the measures included are providing the best level of protection available, whilst allowing the school/college to run in a way which will prioritise student's education and growth.

The Trust will have arrangements in place so it can re-introduce previous measures, as necessary, and in line with Government guidance. This may include:

- Reintroduction of face coverings in communal areas
- Adhering 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/college or arrangements for home working or learning
- If recommended to reduce mixing between groups we would:
  - Reintroduce bubbles
  - Separate entrances/exits for bubbles
  - Deliver lunches to classrooms
  - Separate rota for breaks and lunches
  - Timetabled use of specialist rooms
  - Reintroduce 'maximum capacity' notices for all communal areas
- If recommended we would limit:
  - Residential educational visits
  - Transition days
  - Parents coming into school/college
  - Non-essential visitors attending school/college
  - Live performances

As well as increasing the level of controls; the measures will include providing high quality remote education where students are not able to attend. The school will continue to provide meals or lunch parcels for students eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

### Current arrangements for testing and isolation

LFD testing kits will be available on site and supplies will allow for a scaling up of testing if required to allow students and staff to attend. LFD testing is not appropriate for people with symptoms and they should not attend school/college whilst they have symptoms.

PCR testing kits will be available for any individual who is symptomatic and may not be able to access a PCR test by other means. Individuals (and where appropriate their parents/carers) should be encouraged to use PCR testing centres where they are likely to get a rapid result. Individuals (and where appropriate their parents/carers) should be strongly encouraged to share the results with the school/college at the earliest opportunity.

- Where a suspected case occurs, the individual will be asked to self-isolate and take a PCR test. It is likely when there are confirmed cases the school/college will be asked to provide a list of close contacts, and will need to take further advice from PHE or the Local Health Protection team.
- Where there are multiple cases, (2 children, pupils, students and staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period), further measures in line with the Summer term risk assessment may be re-introduced. Public Health England will be consulted (08000468687 (1)) and any changes in their immediate or publicised guidance will be acted upon.
- If a suspected case occurs, the individual will be asked to self-isolate and take a PCR test. It is likely when there are confirmed cases the school/college will be asked to provide a list of close contacts, and will need to take further advice from PHE or the Local Health Protection team.

Where an individual is asked to self-isolate, they will be provided with an isolation number. The number will allow the individual and the school/college to track how long the isolation must be in place.

Individuals who have been informed by Test and Trace to isolate, or have symptoms, must not attend the school/college. The school/college retains the authority to refuse entry to individuals who have symptoms or where the school/college feels their attendance may lead to an outbreak.