

Wood Green School Covid Arrangements v8.0¹ (Jan 2022)

Contingency Planning

The guidance for managing Covid in Schools was withdrawn on April 1st 2022. We will continue to monitor and respond to changes in numbers of Covid cases. At Wood Green School, we will operate a level system to monitor and track infection rates and our response to them.

Current Level: 01.04.22 Level 1

Level History:

01.09.21	New school year Level 1
11.10.21	Infection rates rising but not yet meeting thresholds; following consultation with PHE and OCC move to Level 2
06.01.22	DfE guidance recommends use of face coverings in classrooms until at least 29 th January. Move to Level 3
29.01.22	DfE Guidance removes the use of face coverings in all settings other than transport nationally
28.02.22	Revised guidance issued
29.03.22	Revised guidance issued. Cases reduced. Move to Level 1

¹ This version is phase 8.0:

Phase 1 – Move to Lockdown 03/20

Phase 2 – Partial reopening to yrs 10 and 12 06/20

Phase 3 – Full reopening 09/20

Phase 4 – Lockdown 2 01/21

Phase 5 – Return to school 03/21

Phase 6 – Start of school year 09/21

Phase 7 – March 2022

Phase 8 – Relaxation of national measures April 2022

Level 0

No measures are in place at all, including any self-isolation

Level 1

The following measures to reduce the spread of Covid will be in place:

- Hand hygiene – sanitiser in every room
- Ventilation – rooms will be kept ventilated
- Social distancing where possible; assemblies will be live and in person, as will collective events which are important to our students' education.
- Sending home students with Covid symptoms
- Additional arrangements for self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid (see below)

To avoid confusion, the following are changes to previous measures that were in place during the school year 2020-21. From September 1st:

- Year group bubbles will cease; therefore there will be no villages or lunchtime segregation and mixed year group activities such as sport, music and drama rehearsals can recommence
- Track and trace for close contacts will not be in operation via school
- Face coverings will not be required in school, but may be worn if an individual wishes to do so

Arrangements for Managing Covid Absence from 1st April 2022

The national guidance for Covid isolation and testing changed again on April 1st 2022. The guidance is taking us to a point where Covid is being treated as any other illness (i.e. stay at home if you are ill, come in when better). However, we are not quite there yet; although the guidance does not advise anyone now to test themselves, there is still a legacy of people having testing kits at home.

It remains our policy to follow Government guidance, as this has been created based on national risk assessment. Our process is then to implement processes at school level, and to risk assess specific activities.

The new advice is:

1. If you do not have symptoms, there is no reason to be using a Covid test i.e., asymptomatic testing (this was already in place from Feb 28th)
2. If someone has symptoms (they are unwell and have a high temperature) they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. There is no requirement to use a Covid test.
3. If someone arrives at school with a cough or a temperature, we will send them home (as has been the case for the last two years)

Specific Advice regarding managing student absence

Students should follow the specific points 1-3 above. In addition:

Testing Positive

The guidance does not recommend the use of Covid tests any more but recognises that some people will still have Covid tests available. **If a student does use a test and tests positive:** they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, after which they should return to school. The rules about having two negatives in order to return have ended.

An end to live remote learning due to Covid, except for years 11 and 13

Under the new guidance, the vast majority of students who are absent are only away from school because they are too ill to attend. Therefore we are no longer providing remote learning via Teams for students for reasons linked to Covid. We have made a decision as a school though to allow Year 11 and 13 to have access to lessons via Teams during their last few weeks at school. This provision is:

- Only for students who have symptoms so are unwell enough not to attend school but who are well enough to join a lesson from home
- Only for a short period of up to three days

If a student in years 11 and 13 wishes to join a lesson remotely, they should contact their teacher via email in advance. We are offering this provision to support these students because they are approaching exams and who have had disruption during their GCSE or A Level years.

There are different approaches for non-Covid situations. If we have students with long term medical conditions, or if the school has to close fully or partially due to weather for example, we will now use remote learning more routinely; these situations are covered in separate remote learning guidance.

Informing school of absence

Parents should continue to inform school each day when a student is absent.

If a student has used a Covid test and is positive, the parent should inform the school of the student's expected return to school date (Day 4). (Students can now return to school on Day 4 if they are well enough and do not have a temperature.) DAY 1 of the student's self-isolation period is the day **AFTER** their symptoms started, or the day **AFTER** they did the LFD test. The parent should then inform the school if a student is not well enough to return on Day 4.

Specific Advice regarding managing staff absence

Staff should follow the specific points 1-3 above. In addition:

Testing Positive

The guidance does not recommend the use of Covid tests any more, but recognises that some people will still have Covid tests available. **If a member of staff does use a test and tests positive:** they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, after which they should return to school. The rules about having two negatives in order to return have ended.

Processes for staff to inform the school of their situation are issued to staff separately.

Level 2

If infection rates rise, we will continue all measures at Level 1 **and**:

- recommend the wearing of face coverings in indoor communal spaces (not classrooms)
- recommend the widespread use of teaching strategies that reduce the need for close contact ie teaching from the front, no group work
- Moving assemblies and other larger gatherings remotely
- Only carrying out live performances where social distancing is possible, with the audience wearing face coverings and being encouraged to complete a Lateral Flow Test on the day of the event

It will be a school decision to move to level 2, in discussion with Public Health England.

Level 3

If rates continue to rise, advice will be sought from Public Health England and we will move to Level 3. A national change to case levels may also lead to a move to level 3.

In either case, some or all of the following measures will be introduced, **as well as continuing with all Level 1 and 2 measures**:

- The wearing of face coverings in classrooms
- Ceasing all residential educational visits
- Ceasing all open days
- Ceasing all transition or taster days
- Cease visitors in school unless essential, including carrying out all parental meetings remotely
- Ceasing all live performances in school
- Any measures as per national guidance

For specific measures in place currently, please see box above:

Level 4

If, despite the above measures being introduced, rates continue to rise, we will, in addition to all above measures, reintroduce measures to keep year groups apart. We will, in order:

- i. The cessation of mixed year group activities such as music, drama rehearsals
- ii. Move to fully staggered lunch arrangements

Level 5

When all above measures have shown not to be effective, we will reintroduce the villages system for learning, where year groups have all their lessons in one area of the school, other than for subjects requiring specialist resources

Level 6

If cases reach a level that prevent the safe operation of school, or it is judged with PHE that the rate of infection is continuing to rise, we will move to remote learning of some or all year groups. This decision will need to be ratified by PHE and Oxfordshire County Council.