



Clarity Independent School

11th October 2023

COVID-19 response statement - Leading Clarity out of COVID-19

This article reflects the latest government guidance.

What's the latest news?

On 5th April 2022, the operational guidance for schools and managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings were withdrawn. We are therefore now using a COVID management plan as part of our school's critical incident plan, linking health protection in education and childcare settings for infectious disease as our main source of guidance for emergency planning. Please see our **Critical Incident Plan** and **Infection Control Policy** on our website for more information. These are plans of how we can minimise disruption to pupils' education in the case of a critical incident (including an outbreak of an infectious disease), maximise the number of pupils receiving face-to-face provision and help staff respond effectively to an emergency on site or during an educational visit.

Current state of play

Education

- The remote education temporary continuity direction is no longer in place. This means that we are no longer *required* to provide remote education for pupils unable to attend school due to COVID; however, we will *consider* providing remote education to such pupils unable to attend in-person, for example when:
 - Our school needs to close, in order to follow guidance from local or central government
 - Individual pupils have an infectious illness, but are well enough to continue learning
- Please see our updated **Remote Learning Policy** on our website for more information



Approved Assessor for
Disabled Students'
Allowance



Guild Member
Assessment Practising
Certificate holder



INPP
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

Attendance

- Schools are again required to remind parents that attendance at school is a mandatory, legal requirement, and students must attend every term time day unless they are poorly and need to see a doctor, are isolating due to a valid reason, or have a medical appointment.
- The DfE no longer advises the use of 'code X' to record pupils who are not attending school for reasons related to coronavirus.

Testing and responding to cases

- The legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed, though staff and pupils are advised to try to stay home if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature, or if they feel unwell (returning to school when they feel well enough, and no longer have a high temperature.)
- Asymptomatic testing is no longer expected in schools, and schools can't order free lateral flow tests from NHS Test and Trace anymore.
- Those who choose to test and test positive, will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people:
 - Staff for 5 days
 - Pupils for 3 days, but if the person feels well enough, they are allowed to return to school.
- More information can be found in the [UKHSA guidance](#)

Health and safety measures applied in school

A positive outcome of the pandemic has been the realisation, on a worldly scale, of how important environmental hygiene is amongst close communities such as schools. At Clarity, we have therefore decided to continue with many of the tougher hygiene procedures introduced during the pandemic, in order to prevent the transmission of infectious illnesses such as colds, viruses, tummy bugs and other infectious illnesses through our school community. These include;

- **Washing hands:** We will continue to encourage pupils to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day, as part of living healthily and preventing the spread of many infectious illnesses and diseases, as well as being part of good practice.
- **Cleaning of touch points:** Touch points will be sanitised around the school on a daily basis and we will continue to encourage the pupils to sanitise their desk at the end of the day, ready for fresh use the next day.
- **Promoting good respiratory hygiene:** We will continue to spread the message '*catch it, bin it, kill it*' around our school community.
- **Ventilation:** occupied spaces will still be kept well ventilated. Poorly ventilated spaces will be identified and steps taken to improve fresh air flow.
- **Vaccination:** We will continue to update our school community about vaccinations for COVID and other infectious diseases, facilitate and encourage take up where possible.
- **Our emergency plan:** This is in place in case of critical incident and is available on our website.

- **COVID-19 status checks for events and visitors to school:** We are no longer required by law to use the NHS COVID Pass as a condition of entry to any indoor events (like school visits and parents' meetings), but may still do so if we wish. Risk assessment indicates that this is not currently viewed as necessary at Clarity. We are advised not to use the NHS COVID Pass or proof of a negative test as a condition of entry for:
 - Education or related activities, like exams, teaching, extra-curricular activities, or
 - Any other day-to-day activities that are part of education or training, e.g. specialist professionals visiting the school to deliver interventions

'Stay safe and well!'

Written by D. Hanson
Head Teacher, Clarity Independent School