



East Markham County Primary School

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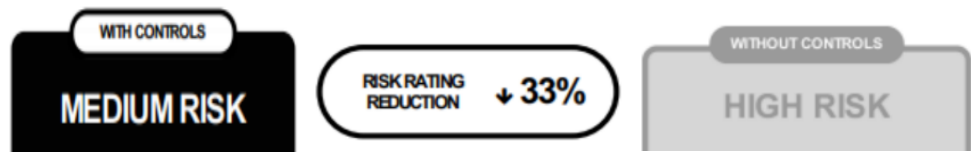


East Markham Primary School COVID-19 Risk Assessment Jan 2022 - Adopted 5.1.22

This risk assessment explains the actions we will take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our school. It follows the DfE Schools Operational Guidance 2.1.222 which includes public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE). As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered two vaccines and the opportunity for a booster dose. The priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education.

People exposed

- Colleagues
- Contractors
- Visitors
- Members of the Public
- Other



Hazards

- **Mixing and large groups:** COVID-19 is highly transmissible meaning that mixing in large groups increases the risk of passing on the disease.
- **Failure to self-isolate:** Self-isolation has been one of the key measures put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout the pandemic.
- **Failure to wear a face covering:** Throughout the pandemic the government has required adults to wear face coverings in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people they don't normally meet to help prevent the spread.
- **Outbreak of COVID-19 in school:** An outbreak is defined as 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who have tested positive for COVID within a 10-day period; or - 10% of children, pupils, students or staff.
- **Poor hygiene:** Hand and respiratory hygiene and use of PPE have been central to the government's strategy of managing the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
- **Poor cleaning regime:** Regular cleaning of all surfaces, touchpoints and shared equipment has been central to the government's strategy in schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **Poor ventilation:** Evidence suggests that COVID-19 particles are greatly reduced in the outdoors and that good ventilation / regular flushing of indoor spaces with fresh air can help to reduce the spread.
- **Failure to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID 19:** Due to the severity of COVID-19 stringent measures have been in place since March 2020 to slow the spread, failure to follow guidance has resulted in significant increase in cases in some places.
- **Testing:** Staff have been asked to take part in twice weekly lateral flowing testing to help slow the spread. This brings its own hazards. Staff fail to follow test instructions properly meaning: - results are void or there are false negatives - harm themselves (e.g. broken swab in mouth / poke too far) - failure to submit results, inaccurate or wrongly reporting, data may be lost or accessed inappropriately resulting in failure to manage those who test as positive for COVID 19.
- **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Staff and Children:** CEV people have been required to shield to prevent themselves catching COVID-19 as consequences for those with underlying health conditions are generally more severe.



- **Poor attendance:** School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.
- **Foreign Travel:** Foreign travel is currently restricted and subject to quarantine rules which could prolong a child's absence from school.
- **Inability to provide remote education:** Poor access to IT. Parents struggle to support. Lack of staff time to prepare work that is 'equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.'
- **Poor mental health of staff and children:** Some pupils and staff may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood.
- **Staffing levels:** The school must have adequate numbers of staff to ensure children are safe and able to access high quality learning experiences.

Control Measures

- **Bubbles From the government guidance:** Our contingency plans cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.
- **Self-isolation period for individuals who test positive:** Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting. Health and social care workers, including those working in education settings, should follow guidance for their sector on taking LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. Anyone unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day self-isolation.
- **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19:** People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- **Wearing a face covering:** Parents are encouraged to wear masks on the playground when dropping off and collecting children. Parents and visitors are encouraged to wear masks when entering the school building.
- **Outbreak Management Plan:** See attached Outbreak Management Plan with measures that will be taken if there were an outbreak.
- **Hand washing:** Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- **Use of PPE:** Staff will wear PPE when dealing with bodily fluids in a proportionate manner similar to that which was being employed prior to March 2020.
- **Teaching respiratory hygiene:** Staff will continue to teach and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- **Appropriate Cleaning Regime:** The school cleaning team will clean the school daily. Illness will be monitored to see whether additional cleaning of shared equipment should be reintroduced.
- **Ventilation:** Windows will be kept open when the temperature is comfortable. As the weather becomes colder staff will open windows at breaks and lunchtimes to 'flush' the room. The hall windows and vents



will be open during the lunch period. Staff should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

- **Follow public health advice:** Pupils, staff and other adults should 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). If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home with advice. The lobby is designated as the space for children with suspected COVID-19 to wait whilst collection is arranged. Staff should open the door – the child will sit on the chair, the adult will sit near the door 2 metres away. The area will be cleaned after suspected COVID-19 cases, along with other affected areas, including toilets. If staff deal with a child who is ill (with or without COVID symptoms) they must go and thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water straight afterwards. Hand sanitiser is not sufficient in this circumstance.
- **Clear instructions for testing:** Staff have clear instructions for how and when to test, what to do if they have an issue and how to report their result.
- **Vaccination & medical advice:** People in the CEV category should all have been received two doses of the vaccination and the booster dose. School will follow the written advice of clinicians in relation to CEV staff and children and will support reasonable adjustments to enable them to access work/school.
- **Attendance monitoring:** Attendance monitoring will resume in the Autumn term and parents will be reminded of the rules around attendance in regular newsletter features.
- **Travel quarantine rules & absence fines:** Parents travelling abroad during term time / short holidays will be reminded of the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return and the fines such travel will incur.
- **Remote Education:** We will provide remote learning for children who have to remain at home. We will work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that all pupils including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education.
- **Flexible delivery:** Operational challenges caused by workforce shortages will be managed to ensure that children continue to receive high quality teaching from teachers and teaching assistants. A workforce shortage may result in a move to remote learning.
- **Ofsted Inspection:** The school will request to defer the inspection if it is concerned it is not the right time for an inspection to go ahead due to challenges linked to COVID e.g. staffing.
- **Wellbeing support:** Children will continue to have time to talk during PSHE sessions. Parents will be encouraged to share concerns about their children with staff who will offer advice. Staff can access the school's wellbeing service and should talk to a senior staff member who will offer support in the short term whilst other services are contacted.

