



Establishment name:

Black Torrington Church of
England Primary School

Initial Assessment

Review YES

Following Incident

Date of Initial Assessment: 25/11/2021

Assessor(s): Lisa Paton

Date of Review: 31/03/2022

Assessor(s): Jo Luxford

Activity/Task/Process/Equipment

COVID-19 March 31st 2022

(NB Other risk assessment findings and policy arrangements apply where unaffected by COVID-19)

National Arrangements for 'Living with COVID from 1 April 2022

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) [released this information this week](#) on the 'next steps for living with COVID'. The Department for Education also [published this blog](#) yesterday to clarify how 'living with COVID' will apply to schools, in preparation for all relevant guidance to be updated published on 1st April. The key points and changes that will come into effect from tomorrow are as follows:

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) tests are no longer be freely available, including to schools, and routine testing will no longer be expected in schools. (The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have provided new information [here](#) on who can access free tests from now on.)**
- **Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result are now advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. This of course applies to all staff at the school.**
- **Children with a positive COVID-19 test result are now advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This means that all children currently isolating can return to school on Monday 4th April if, of course, they do not have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.**

Continued...

- **Adults with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.**
- **Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.**
- **It is deemed 'sensible' to wear a mask in enclosed spaces, keep indoor spaces ventilated and stay away from others if you have any symptoms of a respiratory illness, including COVID.**
- **Children and young people aged 5 and over are encouraged to get vaccinated, although the in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme will come to an end.**

Summary of hierarchy of controls:

- Whilst tests are available, staff are encouraged to continue to test – twice per week.
- If a member of staff unfortunately tests positive, they should stay at home for the five days of isolation to help reduce transmission rates.
- Where a school risk assessment has been undertaken that recommends the use of face masks in one of the Trust settings, it is expected staff will wear them to reduce transmission rates. Masks are available.
- In any event, employees can choose to wear a face mask if they wish in classrooms, communal areas and offices, and this should be supported. If employees choose to wear one in a workplace, it is important they use them properly and wash their hands before putting them on and after taking them off.
- Monitor and isolate all who have symptoms – maintain quarantine arrangements, cooperate with UKHSA
- Regular and repeated hand washing/sanitising: on arrival, before food, after washroom visit, on entry/exit to room
- Good respiratory hygiene practice
- Thorough cleaning regime with focus on frequently touched surfaces (*reference to Cleaning document*)
- Limit sharing of equipment – personal equipment where possible, risk assessment for curriculum areas where equipment has to be shared to identify compensating hygiene controls. Continue to practice good hygiene and cleaning regimes for equipment – School to Risk Assess.
- PPE for selected staff who work in close proximity identified in individual risk assessment for staff member or pupil
- School discipline: policy amended to account for those who disrupt/endanger fellow students/staff.

Significant hazard	Who/what is at Risk?	Risk			Control measures in place
		L	S	R	
Essential premises services Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct or indirect contact with someone displaying symptoms	Staff, students	>1	5	>5	Essential site maintenance should continue as normal Contractors entering site will do so by appointment and will abide by hygiene controls
Staff or students with symptoms Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct or indirect contact with someone displaying symptoms	Staff, students				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No staff or students to attend if they are symptomatic. Those who display symptoms of one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and continuous cough high temp >37.8 loss/change to sense of smell/taste must return home as soon as possible and isolate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 5 days isolation period Children 3 days isolation period Children and staff who are infected can return to school, after the isolation period, if they have no symptoms and feel well enough to attend In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. Contact-free thermometer available if needed. Those displaying symptoms are to cover their mouth/nose with a mask until they can leave. Stocks of tissue, hand-sanitiser and cleaner-sanitiser to be located in the admin office. PPE also to be on hand for use by staff assisting this person <i>if this is unavoidable</i> (see First Aid section). The room must then be cleaned in line with previously circulated guidance.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If visual contamination is evident in the room e.g. saliva on table surfaces etc then PPE in the form of gloves, apron, and respirator to be worn for cleaning. Contaminated area to be pre-treated with Titan sanitiser. • Flow chart (v.23.0) from PHE SW to be followed in respect of any person who has tested positive. DfE phone number to be used as initial point of contact. • Actions on flow chart followed depending on test result. If negative, staff or student can return to school. Positive test result would be communicated to DfE helpline (0800 046 8687). • Other reasons to report direct to HPT are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital admission with COVID like symptoms • You think you may need to close due to numbers affected • Someone in setting has been admitted to hospital • You are getting significant media interest • If escalated to HPT at PHE SW, all instruction received from the HPT would be followed. •
<p>Increase in positive numbers in school</p> <p>Whichever of these thresholds is reached first:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; • 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period 	Staff, students	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency Plan to be developed to respond to increase in number of cases in school which must detail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ roles and responsibilities ○ actions you would take to put it in place quickly e.g additional testing measures, reintroduction of face coverings (exl primary school), shielding or other measures, attendance restrictions in extreme cases on advice of DfE ○ educational continuity: how you would ensure every child receives quantity and quality of education and support to which they are normally entitles ○ how you would communicate changes to all stakeholders • Review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures they already have in place.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek additional public health advice if concerned about transmission in the setting (DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1))
<p>Asymptomatic transmission</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct or indirect contact with someone NOT displaying symptoms</p>	Staff, students	1	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While tests remain available, twice-weekly testing for all staff by undertaking LFD test on rotational basis, at 3-4 day interval. Those testing positive will have to return home to isolate as soon as the notification has been received.
<p>Shielding the vulnerable</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct or indirect contact whilst attending school site with elevated consequence.</p>	Staff, students, co-habitants of staff/students	1	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There remains a smaller number of people who, in spite of vaccination, are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. This is due to a weakened immune system (immunosuppressed) or specific other medical conditions and requires enhanced protections such as those offered by antibody and antiviral treatments, additional vaccinations and potentially other non-clinical interventions. See guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk.
<p>Social distancing</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct contact whilst attending school site</p>	Staff, students	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required
<p>Hygiene</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 via indirect contact whilst attending school site</p>	Staff, adult co-habitants of students	1	4	4	<p><u>Hand-hygiene:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing regular hand-hygiene is the principal control for indirect transmission. Hand washing or hand sanitising with alcohol hand sanitiser must be undertaken at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon arrival at classroom at day's start After using a washroom Before and after food Upon entering and leaving any teaching space

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After coming in from outside recreation ○ Upon final departure ○ After removing PPE or a face covering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Therefore, hand- sanitiser must be available at the entrance/s to each teaching space and entrance/exit points.</i> ▪ Staff to undertake hand-hygiene after handling pupils' work. ▪ Hand hygiene should also be undertaken after use of any shared resource. ▪ Staff should supervise hand-sanitising in teaching spaces. ▪ All visitors must wash/sanitise their hands upon arrival and departure. <p><u>Respiratory hygiene:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good respiratory hygiene – ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ to be followed and modelled as much as possible. ▪ Tissues and covered bins to be provided in each room. ▪ <i>Behaviours to be taught and modelled at all ages.</i> ▪ Regular checks of washrooms must be undertaken to ensure that stocks of soap etc are available. ▪ Pupil access to washrooms to be controlled to limit numbers as well as to control behaviour. Year groups have been allocated a set of toilets to use throughout the day in their tutor hubs. Toilets will be checked and cleaned throughout the day and students expected to hand sanitise before and after using the toilet. ▪ Message to be reinforced by posters displayed around the site. ▪ Some pupils with complex needs will struggle to maintain as good respiratory hygiene as their peers. This should be considered in student specific risk assessments in order to support these pupils and the staff working with them. <p><u>Cleaning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All rooms utilised in the timetable should be cleaned at least daily.
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear desk policy: staff to clear hard surfaces to allow for cleaning. ▪ A cleaner-disinfectant conforming to BSEN1276 is used. ▪ Launder cloths daily or use disposable paper rolls. ▪ Cleaning protocol circulated. ▪ Regularly touched hard-surfaces to be sanitised: tables, desk tops, light switches, keyboards/mouse, phones, taps, and flush handles. ▪ Roving cleaning staff throughout day to clean regularly touched corridor surfaces (door handles, bannisters etc). ▪ Staff to support cleaning after each lesson change; touch points (table-tops, keyboards, etc) to be sanitised between changes of Year Group. ▪ Cleaner-disinfectant and paper towel to be located in teaching spaces for staff to take ownership of cleaning in their own teaching space as the need arises i.e. to clean if a child coughs/sneezes on a desk top etc. ▪ Cleansing wipes to be located by photocopiers to allow users to wipe buttons/touchscreen after each use. ▪ Refer to Cleaning Guidance for full details of cleaning methodology plus COSHH risk assessment details.
<p>First Aid</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 from direct and indirect contact with child due to administration of First Aid</p>	First Aid staff	1	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Covid specific measures for non Covid related First Aid other than normally practiced. ▪ If people report to First Aid with COVID-19 symptoms, beyond testing temperature if needed, they should NOT be treated by First Aid but should be shown to a separate isolation room where they can be isolated until they return home. They should be required to cover their mouths with a tissue/paper towel until this happens. ▪ A contactless thermometer is available to take a temperature. PPE will nevertheless be worn as described above. ▪ Have a room set aside for this eventuality and have a supply of tissues/paper towels on hand.

					<p><u>PPE – please note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPE for the purposes of infection control in the form of gloves, face masks/respirators and face shields must be used with caution as cross contamination of the virus can occur with PPE. ▪ If disposable gloves are worn, change them frequently by removing them from the wrist and continue to wash your hands. ▪ PPE face masks/respirators must be removed by the ear pieces/ties. Face shields by the back of the securing band. In all cases avoid touching the front of the mask/shield which could be contaminated. ▪ Always wash your hands after removing PPE ▪ <i>PPE can be a flawed control measure if used incorrectly. It relies on good fit and correct usage. It can itself become contaminated. Do not let wearing PPE lull you into a false sense of security and avoid prolonged close, face to face contact as the control measure of first choice.</i> ▪ Briefing document for safe use of PPE circulated.
<p>Lack of ventilation</p> <p>Potential for contracting COVID-19 via direct contact due to poor ventilation</p>	<p>Staff, adult co-habitants of students</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure rooms are well ventilated by opening windows and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. ▪ Identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays. ▪ Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may

					<p>also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air handling units and other mechanical ventilation systems should be used if the school has these. It should be ensured that these systems are <u>not</u> set to air re-circulation only. ▪ Re-circulating only air-conditioning systems not to be used in place of open windows and fresh air ventilation but can be used where a source of fresh air is provided. ▪ Source of fresh air to be maintained in winter months when weather is colder whilst maintaining statutory minimum temperatures by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open all windows by a small amount ○ Opening doors to aid cross-ventilation (subject to controls for fire doors above) ○ ‘Flush’ rooms at break times by opening all windows to fullest extent for 2 minutes. ○ Allow pupils to wear jumpers/hoodies/coats.
<p>Cleaning tasks</p> <p>Potential for indirect contracting of COVID-19 whilst undertaking cleaning</p>	Cleaning staff	1	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See separate cleaning guidance and associated risk assessments. ▪ Cleaners’ PPE to be disposable gloves and disposable or laundered aprons. ▪ FFP2/FFP3/N95 respirators are for direct contact (within 2m for >15minutes) with an individual who is displaying symptoms so should NOT normally be required for these tasks – refer to cleaning guidance. See exception below. ▪ If not disposable, laundered aprons should be washed on the hottest wash possible for the clothing concerned ▪ Removed PPE to be double-bagged for disposal. ▪ A disinfectant/cleaner (either combined or separate) to be used. Ensure that this has a confirmed viricidal action. ▪ Usual COSHH risk assessment findings to be followed in respect of chemical safety and use.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please refer to Cleaning Guidance for full details of cleaning methodology plus a <i>suggested</i> example cleaner/disinfectant. ▪ Launder cloths daily or use disposable paper rolls. ▪ All staff to follow a 'clear-desk' policy to enable regular cleaning of all hard surfaces. ▪ Unnecessary paperwork and displays to be removed to allow surfaces to be sanitised. ▪ Cleaning of isolation room: if visual contamination is evident in the room e.g. saliva on table surfaces etc then PPE in the form of gloves, apron, and respirator to be worn for clean. Contaminated area to be pre-treated with Titan sanitiser.
<p>Transport</p> <p>Potential for direct and/or indirect contracting of COVID-19 whilst undertaking cleaning</p>	Students	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Trust is not the principal duty holder in respect of transport, organised by others. The strategy will therefore be to cooperate with and communicate the risk assessment findings of other partner organisations as well as reinforcing and communicating government guidance for the safe use of general public transport. ▪ DCC Transport Coordination Service risk control measures to apply. ▪ Any child, young person or other learner who starts displaying coronavirus symptoms while at their setting should wherever possible be collected by a member of their family or household. ▪ Transport provider to clean regularly touched hard surfaces between uses. ▪ All passengers alighting from a bus should sanitise hands as soon as possible. Similarly, transport users should sanitise hands before leaving the building to board the bus. <p><i>*PPE protects the individual from the virus. A face-covering offers little protection to the individual but it will protect others <u>from</u> the individual by limiting the travel of their breath or cough/sneezes. See separate guidance on use of face-coverings.</i></p>

<p>School Trips: risk of cancellation</p>		1	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that any new bookings have adequate financial protection in place. ▪ Be aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. Ensure contingency plans in place to account for changes. ▪ Undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. General guidance about educational visits is available and is supported by specialist advice from the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP).
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