Arnold Academy

COVID 19 Risk Assessment

Step 4 (Omicron Variant)

- November 2021

Completed by:	**C McManus**	**Date**	**29/11/2021**

Reviewed by	Date	Next Review Due

COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Schools & Educational Settings

Risk Assessment for *Arnold Academy*						
Hazards	**Who is at risk?**	**How can the hazard cause harm?**	**What are you already doing?**	**Are normal control measures in place?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Risk Rating**
Person showing symptoms or positive test result	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	• Serious illness or death is unlikely for vaccinated adults or children. • Long COVID • Staff absence leading to closures of part of or whole school.	• Refer to GCC COVID Response Checklist and public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. • Regular communications that persons are not to 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 (e.g. they are required to quarantine). • If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms they will be sent home. • An unwell child awaiting collection will be isolated in a suitable room with or without adult supervision (depending on age and needs of the child). • Staff caring for a child awaiting collection to keep a distance of 2 metres. • PPE to be worn by staff caring for the child, including: ○ a face mask worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Increase the use of home testing by pupils and staff If advised reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at school Consult with the local PHE team to discuss what support secondary schools need to do this. Consider reintroducing face coverings and bubbles temporarily	9

			○ if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn ○ eye protection where there is a risk of fluids entering the eye, for example, from coughing, spitting or vomiting. • Staff to wash their hands after caring for a child with symptoms. • All areas where a person with symptoms has been to be cleaned after they have left. • If there is more than two positive tests, the school's outbreak management plan will be initiated. • School has sufficient supplies of PPE, face coverings, cleaning materials and hand washing/sanitising liquids. • Update staff, pupils, stakeholders and visitors on changes in practice – Step 4 measures. • If a parent/carer insists on a pupil attending your school with symptoms, Headteacher may refuse the pupil if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. • Close contacts no longer need to isolate if they are double vaccinated or under 18, unless there are contacts of confirmed or suspected cases of the Omicron variant.	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Attendance restriction will only be recommended by the government as a last resort.	

			• All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.			
Poor Personal Hygiene	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	• Serious illness or death is unlikely for vaccinated adults or children. • Long COVID • Staff absence leading to closures of part of or whole school.	• COVID-19 posters/ signage displayed. • Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice. • Pupils and staff to clean their hands when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. • Sufficient handwashing facilities are available. • Where there is no sink, hand sanitiser provided in classrooms. • Skin friendly skin cleaning wipes used as an alternative to hand washing or sanitiser. • Staff help is available for pupils who have trouble cleaning their hands independently (e.g. small children and pupils with complex needs). • Use resourcesto teach effective hand hygiene etc.	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Put in place monitoring and supervision to make sure people are following any controls you have in place, including enhanced cleaning.	9

			• Adults and pupils are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose. • Adults and pupils encouraged to use a tissue to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it'). • Tissues to be provided. • Bins for tissues provided and are emptied throughout the day.	Y Y Y Y		
Spreading coronavirus from contact with surfaces, equipment and workstations	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	• Serious illness or death is unlikely for vaccinated adults or children. • Long COVID • Staff absence leading to closures of part of or whole school.	• Reduced clutter and removing difficult to clean items to make cleaning easier. • Cleaning using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach, paying attention to all surfaces but especially ones that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, remote controls and electronic devices. • Surfaces that are frequently touched and by many people in common areas to be cleaned twice a day. • Avoid sharing work equipment by allocating it on a personal basis or put cleaning regimes in place to clean between each user. • Identify where you can reduce people touching surfaces, for example by leaving doors open (except fire doors), or providing contactless payment.	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Put in place monitoring and supervision to make sure people are following controls, for example by implementing cleaning regimes. Provide information telling people who should clean something and when. Provide instruction and training to	9

			• Keep surfaces clear to make it easier to clean and reduce the likelihood of contaminating objects. • Provide more bins and empty them more often. • Toilets and communal areas to be cleaned regularly. • Sanitising spray and paper towels to be provided in classrooms for use by members of staff. • Thorough cleaning of rooms at the end of the day. • Encourage hand hygiene. • Long hair to be tied up.	Y Y Y Y Y	people who need to clean. Include information on the products they need to use, precautions they need to follow and the areas they need to clean	
Poorly ventilated spaces leading to risks of coronavirus spreading	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	• Serious illness or death is unlikely for vaccinated adults or children. • Long COVID • Staff absence leading to closures of part of or whole school.	• Ventilation and AC systems working optimally. • Heating used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained when the building is occupied. • Keep windows open wide enough to provide some natural background ventilation and open internal doors to increase air flow. • Open windows fully when rooms are unoccupied for longer periods to purge the air (e.g. lunch times and before and after school). • Action taken to prevent occupants being exposed to draughts. For example, partially open high-level windows as oppose to low-level windows, close external doors and arrange the furniture if appropriate and possible • Air conditioning systems that normally run with a recirculation mode set up to run on full outside	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Identify any poorly ventilated spaces take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas. Maintain air conditioning plant and equipment as per manufacturers instructions.	9

			• Occupants encouraged to wear additional, suitable indoor clothing. (If they have to wear coats, scarves and other outdoor clothing the room would be considered too cold and the above steps must be considered). • Ensure staff meetings and insets are in rooms with suitable and sufficient ventilation.	Y Y		
Increased risk of infection and complications for workers who are clinically extremely vulnerable and workers in higher- risk groups	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	• Serious illness or death is unlikely for vaccinated adults or children. • Long COVID • Staff absence leading to closures of part of or whole school.	• Identify who in the work force could be clinically extremely vulnerable and refer to government guidance and HSE and PHE guidance on protecting vulnerable workers during the pandemic on how to support workers in higher-risk groups and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. • Carry out a risk assessment of pregnant workers to identify the risk and measures to be taken. • Some pregnant workers will be at greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus and they should stay at home as much as possible and work from home if they can. • Where adjustments to the job or working from home is not possible pregnant workers will be suspended from work on paid leave.	There are no staff in the CEV group, but some in the CV group. NONE	Guidance on who is clinically extremely vulnerable and what further support may be available from Public Health England. Keep under review completed individual risk assessments for pregnant workers.	6
Airborne spread of COVID	Employees Pupils Young People Families	•	• Although from Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors, persons choosing to wear face coverings as a precaution will not	Y		9

	Contractors Visitors Members of the public		be deterred when outside the classroom. • PHE have advised reinstatement of face coverings in communal areas for pupils, staff and visitors, due to the Omicrom variant. • Where staff are in enclosed and crowded spaces, face masks are recommended (but not required). • Face coverings recommended on school transport.	Y Y		
Returning to work after summer closure	Employees Pupils Young People Families Contractors Visitors Members of the public	•	• Buildings and health and safety compliance checks continue to be undertaken (e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, water hygiene, lifts, etc.). • Decide the tasks that need to be carried out as a priority. This will allow you to plan the order in which workers will return to your workplace and in what number. • Information and instruction for returning workers to ensure clarity on arrangements for cleaning and hygiene and ventilation. • Vaccination is a control measure against COVID so staff can be asked to confirm that they are vaccinated. This information will assist in the risk assessment for outbreak management plans. • Communicate updates with supply staff and other temporary or peripatetic staff and volunteers to follow the school's arrangements for managing and minimising risk. • All secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y		

			tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. • Staff to undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until at least the end of September. • Secondary schools to retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site to offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home. • Review/update policies to reflect changes brought about by updated COVID-19 requirements. • Ensure website is compliant with regards to the publishing of policies and risk assessment.	Y Y Y Y Y		

RISK RATING

Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Value (RV) = Risk Rating (RR) = Action Priority (AP)

Likelihood	
1	Unlikely to happen at all
2	Could happen but rarely
3	Likely to happen
4	Highly likely to happen
5	Almost certainly happen

Severity	
1	Minor Injury e.g. bruise, graze /No impact
2	Requiring medical attention / Low impact
3	Temporary disability / 3 days off work/Partial school closure
4	Serious injury / long term illness / School closure
5	Death or permanent disability/School closed permanently

Risk Value	Risk Rating	Action Priority
16 - 25	Very High	Stop activity until risk is controlled
10 - 15	High	Take action straight away to control risk
6 - 9	Medium	Identify improvements to controls & a plan to implement them
3 - 5	Low	Low priority but consider possible action
1 - 2	Very Low	Further action may not be reasonably practicable