

DUNNINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) PROTOCOL

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Signed by the Headteacher	Signed by Chair of the Local Governing Body	Date disseminated to staff
		Revised September 2021

CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) Protocols for Pupils and Adults from September 2021

As COVID 19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face high-quality education to all pupils.

At Dunnington CE Primary School, we have created protocols for safer working to seek to minimize the risk from Covid-19 as well as outlining procedures to follow after any known exposure or suspected exposure to this infection.

What are the symptoms?

The 3 most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

N.B. Please also be aware that the Delta Variant includes the additional symptoms of:

- headache
- sneezing
- runny nose
- sore throat

How is it transmitted?

COVID-19 is passed from person to person mainly by direct contact or large respiratory droplets. These droplets can be directly inhaled by the person, or can land on surfaces which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth or eyes.

What is the incubation period?

The incubation period (i.e. time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 14 days (median 5 days).

When is a person infectious?

A person is thought to be infectious 48 hours before symptoms appear, and up to 10 days after they start displaying symptoms. If someone without symptoms tests positive then it is from 48 hours before the positive test till 10 days after the test result.

BEFORE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL:

Hands should be washed in accordance with health guidance before leaving home and on arrival at school. Hand-washing is the most effective to prevent any virus transmission, thorough hand washing using soap and water for at least 20 seconds should be observed.

Clothes worn to school, PE kits and any lunch boxes or water bottles carried should be subject to regular and thorough cleaning. This can be with normal household detergents and cleaning products.

Face coverings are no longer required for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

If the weather forecast recommends using sun cream, please apply this to your child at home prior to them entering school. Children can also bring and apply their own sun cream during the school day. Unfortunately, members of staff are not able to assist children in doing this. You may wish to consider applying a 'once a day' protection before school if your child is unable to apply their own cream.

Please **do not bring** any additional items into school beyond the minimum outdoor clothing needed for the school day. Pupils should bring clean PE kit for any days this is needed and a packed lunch and bottle of water if required. This is to ensure we can conduct our cleaning effectively. The school will supply other equipment for pupils. Pupils bringing in a packed lunch should use a hard, plastic container that may be wiped down if needed. No food should be passed around, swapped or shared in school **at any time**. Staff should also seek to minimize items and equipment brought into school.

ON ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL:

We ask all users of our site to respect the current social distancing measures advised by the Government.

We will use the outdoor spaces we have as much as possible and will seek to keep rooms well-ventilated. Please send your child with extra layers of clothing to keep warm in the winter months.

OUR SCHOOL PROCEDURES:

- We will operate a regular review of the operation of our risk assessments and operating protocols to ensure we optimize the health and safety of those on site.
- We will discuss our operating arrangements with staff, parents, pupils and governors and will seek to answer any queries arising.
- We will advise/conduct hand washing regularly. This will always be at least on arrival at school; after toilet breaks; after activities; before and after any handling of food and prior to and following the use of any outdoor areas.
- Visitors will be asked to use the hand sanitizers at our main doors before coming into the main site. We use an alcohol-based sanitizer as only this type of product will kill the COVID-19 virus.
- Hand sanitizer and tissues will be available in classrooms.
- Staff will regularly remind pupils that they must cover any cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin in line with **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.**
- Public health messages will be on prominent display throughout the school
- We will advise pupils about not touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands and we ask parents/carers to repeat this advice at home. Pupils will be told to inform staff if they feel unwell and we will respond accordingly.
- Pupils, parents or staff who feel unwell and have any of these coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, even if mild, must stay at home and should get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as soon as possible:
 - a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough
 - you've lost your sense of smell or taste or it's changed

N.B. Please also be aware that the Delta Variant includes the additional symptoms of:

- headache
- sneezing
- runny nose
- sore throat

You can order a PCR test kit to be sent to your home or book an appointment at a walk-in or drive-through test site. Please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call NHS 111.

- Pupils, parents or staff must avoid close contact with people who are unwell with COVID-19 symptoms.
- We are always vigilant about the health of our pupils and staff and we react quickly if we note any rise in temperature or changes in behaviour.

- If we need to take a temperature of a pupil or staff member, we will use the 'no touch' thermometers on site.
- We are stocked with PPE and will continue to use it as dictated by the latest DfE guidance.

CLEANING PROCEDURES:

Our cleaning staff, and school staff, are on a continuous cycle of cleaning and disinfecting the setting in line with PHE guidance for non-healthcare settings and DfE guidance. We pay particular attention to items such as phones, keyboards, door handles, banister rails, toilet flush handles etc.

All bins are emptied at least twice a day, with food bins always emptied after meals.

Tablets, devices and phones used by our staff are cleaned before and after use

USE OF PPE:

DfE guidance states that PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases where:

- children, young people and learners whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

DfE guidance states that any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands. This is to avoid this item becoming damp via longer term use and therefore potentially increasing the risk of infection.

TRACING CLOSE CONTACTS AND ISOLATION

From 16th August 2021, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.

Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small

number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Failure to comply with self-isolation may result in a fine, starting from £1,000. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone under 18 self-isolates if they test positive for COVID-19 and are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

WHAT WE WILL DO IF CHILDREN OR STAFF BECOME UNWELL AND WE/THEY BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE COVID-19.

If anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice and get a PCR test. The individual concerned will need to go home as soon as possible. We will keep that person sitting somewhere safe, isolated from others until parents are able to collect. Staff dealing with this pupil will wear PPE in line with government guidance. We will clean the room once the pupil leaves according to PHE guidelines.

Anyone with symptoms should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

Suspected cases are required to self-isolate and get a PCR test. If the PCR test results are negative, they can return to school once they feel well enough.

Please remember that it is the Headteacher's decision whether or not a child is well enough to stay in school.

ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING FOR STAFF IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.

Staff will undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and they can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

TRAVEL AND QUARANTINE

All pupils travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice. Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

***This approach is based on government and Public Health guidance as of 17th August 2021. Please note this may be subject to change.**

We thank you for reading through this document and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.