

COVID-19 OUTBREAK PLAN

This plan deals with how Bloxham School will respond to a notification of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case(s) amongst students or staff.

1. Introduction:

Bloxham School operates under its Covid19 2021 (August) Risk Assessment. Policy is to continue to follow Government guidelines, and this Outbreak Management plan is part of our fulfilment of that policy.

Students: The school has approximately 530 students. Some are full boarders (approx. 100), some day students (approx. 150) and the rest (approx. 280) are day-boarders boarding on average 2 nights per week. Only a few in Yr 13 are over 18 and so have the vaccine available to them.

Staff: The school has approx. 230 staff members, plus some contract workers. The HR department has a list of staff vaccination status.

2. Prevention. The Covid19 2021 (August) Risk Assessment sets out the school policy for the prevention of Covid19 whilst ensuring “normalised” face-to-face teaching for all students.

3. Outbreak definition: A standard definition of outbreak is 5 or more cases from 2 separate households. If there is an outbreak then contact with PHE (Thames Valley) will be made. (PHE Thames Valley (Health Protection Team): PHE Thames Valley Phone: 0344 225 3861, Email: tvphe@phe.gov.uk). Also website <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/reporting-an-outbreak/resources/> can be utilised. However, further definitions of an outbreak exist: (a) 10% or more (approximately) of a class or year group (or equivalent other group) been confirmed as positive for COVID-19 in the previous 10 days* (b) 5 or more confirmed COVID-19 cases in a single class or year group (or other equivalent groups) in the previous 10 days* (c) 10% or more (approximately) of all staff been confirmed as positive for COVID-19 in the previous 10 days* (d) 2 or more cases in 10 days in students who are boarding in a school * (e) If your educational setting is experiencing **interest from the media**. (f) There have been any **admissions to hospital or deaths** in your student or staff population due to COVID-19. *At least one of these cases should be PCR positive i.e., laboratory confirmed.

4. Anyone who feels unwell with Covid19 symptoms should seek a test immediately via the gov.uk website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or call 119 if they don't have internet access.

5. Positive cases: Following a case anyone who has tested positive must self-isolate. Staff members self-isolate at home. Day students self-isolate at home. Boarders self-isolate in a boarding house, and arrangements have to be made to create an isolation area for positive case(s). Day-boarders will normally self-isolate at home. If there is no adult at home to care for them then self-isolation in the boarding house is a second option.

6. Household members of a positive case: Those who live in a household with a positive case are required to self-isolate for 10 days unless double-vaccinated or under 8.5 years old. The 10 day period starts from the day after the case became symptomatic (or tested positive if

asymptomatic). A boarder is part of a household within the boarding house. A day boarder is part of the household if they have boarded with the positive case in the period of 48 hours before the case became symptomatic. On-line teaching is to be made available to those who are not ill, but who are forced to self-isolate. Anyone who has had contact with a positive case is required to get a pcr test. Within a boarding house household, a LFD test can be organised immediately for all relevant students, with a view to follow up pcr tests as soon as possible.

7. Definition of a household. In the case of staff members and day students the household is the person's home. In the case of a day boarder who has positive contacts as described in (5) above, or a full boarder a householder is someone who lives in the boarding house with the positive case, sharing toilet, changing, kitchen, living and sleeping accommodation.
8. An outbreak is a situation with more than one positive case on site, emanating from different households.
9. An outbreak would probably require the self-isolation of relevant households, according to PHE advice. This does not necessarily mean the entire house, but rather those people who have had the contacts listed in 7 above. The people concerned would then have to self-isolate. Some may be able to do so at home, others within the boarding house. For a day-boarder it is quite possible that home and the boarding house will both count as "households".
10. An outbreak would trigger a tightening of Covid19 prevention procedures around site. Masks would be worn in all places where students congregate. The assemblies and chapel attendance practice would be re-examined with a view to minimizing risk (eg smaller groups, face-coverings used, no singing). Higher levels of segregation in the dining room would be introduced to keep year groups separate. Social distancing requirements would be re-introduced. The use of face masks in lessons would be re-considered. Heightened cleaning arrangements, some one-way systems, face-masks for all communal travel, masks in the dining room queue & servery remain part of the standard practice, regardless of any cases. A new round of mass testing for the entire school student body would also be considered at this stage. The Head would consider the groups that needed to be informed of an outbreak, but the default position would be to inform staff, students and parents of such an outbreak.
11. Responding to alerts: A fully vaccinated adult, or an 18 year and 6 months or younger individual no longer has to self-isolate if alerted that they have had a contact (beyond their household). The school would require an immediate LFD test followed by a pcr from anyone who was so alerted. In all cases the law requires individuals to respond to instructions from Track and Trace.
12. Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals and pregnant women would need a specific Risk Assessment to assess their situation and the suitability of having them on site. This would be carried out by the Health and Safety Officer in conjunction with the individual for sign off by the Deputy Head. CEV or pregnant individuals are asked to alert HR to their condition.