

# JMAT Risk Assessment Preparation V5 ((September 2021) Post step 4 arena)

## Document – Covid 19

### September 2021 onwards



In September 2021 all schools should be operating in a post Step 4 Arena. Step 4 being the juncture of the governments planned route out of the restrictions imposed upon the public and places of work. By the start of the Autumn Term of 2021, Schools will have more flexibility in terms of their day to day operations. This document aims to set out guidance to underpin risk assessments in setting(s) to be able to continue to prioritise the health, wellbeing and safety of staff and pupils as the restrictions imposed during 2019 and 2020 academic years are removed.

**REMINDER:** Under The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations schools have to carry out suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to:

- Identify what could cause injury or illness (hazards)

- Decide how likely it is someone could be harmed and how seriously (Likelihood)

- Take action to eliminate the hazard, or if this is not possible, control or minimise the risk to an acceptable level (risk)

Coronavirus will still be present as a hazard, however given that the direct clinical risks to children are low and every adult will have had the opportunity to be doubly vaccinated by mid-September, the priority as a Trust is to deliver face to face education for pupils and limit the disruption previous bubble closures has caused.

As the government guidance is revised, schools may need to apply revisions to their risk assessment(s) in light of potential changes, local outbreaks and reacting to public health instruction. The Trust will implement the plans should further restrictions or local lockdowns be instructed

As such the following risk assessment preparation will enable a full school opening, learning lessons from the mitigations previously applied.

#### **An Understanding of:**

**Risk Assessment** – Placing proportionate control measures against hazards encountered in the workplace. As circumstances change and public health advice changes, Risk Assessments should be reviewed and include contamination controls. SLT should plan to review the Covid Safe RA, at least termly for 2021/22 academic year.

**Test and Trace/Isolation** – In September, children under the age of 18, will no longer be required to isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Those identified by NHS Test and Trace as being in close contact with a positive case will be asked to undergo a PCR test. NHS Test and Trace will instruct the isolation period for these individuals.

**Removing Bubble Integrity** – Schools will return to “normal practice” but may consider staffing limitations (particularly in the Autumn Term) so that a reactive return to minimised cross contamination of areas for staff and pupils, should there be an outbreak as determined by PHE.

**COVID SECURE MEASURES are now:**

The hierarchy of control measures in our Covid-19 defence:-

1. Hand Hygiene
2. Increased Hygiene Regime in setting (additional cleaning)
3. Engagement with Vaccine Programme by all staff
4. Observing NHS Test and Trace instruction and updated Infection Control Policy
5. Bubble integrity and minimising access to communal areas as and when instructed
6. Use of PPE.

STAFF	WHOLE CLASS BUBBLE – Sept 2021 onwards
<p><b>Shielding Advice is no longer in place</b> <b>Vulnerable staff</b></p> <p><b>Testing - LFD</b></p>	<p>All Staff should be in setting to undertake their role and responsibilities.</p> <p>Schools must identify those staff who were previously considered CEV – as these may be subject to further shielding as a control measure if PHE inform a local or national outbreak.</p> <p>School must seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate (where necessary) adjustments in relation to work commitment(s)</li> <li>• Make reasonable adjustments to support any additional need</li> <li>• Understand the vaccine status of all staff/adults in setting</li> </ul> <p>Staff are encouraged to continue to undertake the twice weekly LFD testing commencing Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 ahead of return to setting in the new academic year. This will be reviewed in line with PHE guidance by half term OCT.</p>
<p><b>Pregnant women</b> After 28 weeks the specific individual “new and expectant mother” RA should be reviewed</p>	<p>Once a member of staff has told you they are pregnant, you should carry out a specific risk assessment as per usual practice.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboratively adjust their work to avoid unnecessary stress and strain</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable adjustments to work to minimise risks.</li> <li>• During third trimester revisit levels of risk prevalent in setting to determine next steps, include GP/midwife recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Staff Wellbeing is a priority within the Trust and every effort to share appropriate resources and signposting will be made on a case by case basis. Supervision will be provided to Key Personnel in the event of further disruption due to locally or nationally informed events.
<b>PRACTICAL APPLICATION</b>	<b>WHOLE CLASS BUBBLE – Sept 2021 onwards</b>
<b>Balancing perceptions and reality of transmission rates of Covid 19</b> Arrival and Departure	Schools may consider removing staggered start and end times, unless easily catered for and easements have already been applied  Schools may consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining staggered routines for the duration of September</li> <li>• Using the first half term to ease the adjustments made – back to “normal”</li> <li>• Limiting the time parents/carers are on site</li> </ul>
<u><b>Classrooms</b></u>  Removal of Bubble Integrity	Schools will not have to apply social distancing within the classrooms. However the Covid Secure measures may need to be revisited, if a local or national outbreak is determined. Schools should consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of staffing to Year groups to minimise potential disruption</li> <li>• Maintaining increased cleaning routines for surfaces - documented</li> <li>• Facilitating regular hygiene sessions e.g. hand washing for pupils</li> <li>• Ventilate rooms – use mechanical ventilation on fresh air setting – see JO for further advice.</li> <li>• Reviewing Emergency Evacuation procedures</li> <li>• Review Accessibility Plan (ensure fit for purpose)</li> </ul>
<u><b>Toilets</b></u>	Ideally toilets should continue to be assigned where possible to year group setting. Consideration should be given to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proximity of bubble to available WC</li> <li>• Reactive cleaning and self sanitisation is essential.</li> <li>• Supervision for younger pupils</li> </ul>
<u><b>Lunchtimes</b></u>	A full lunchtime service should be in operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider alternative dining areas for packed lunch etc.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools will have the flexibility to retain some measures, if proven useful in terms of behaviour management but if not returning to “usual practice” should include a reactive clean by SMSA or other between sittings</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Outside Playtimes</u></b> <i>Transmission rates are reduced outdoors</i></p>	<p>Transmission rates outdoors and from pupil to pupil are low. Therefore outdoor play and learning is encouraged. Zoning areas will no longer be necessary.</p>
<p><b><u>First Aid</u></b> There will be a need to minimise direct contact with children. <b><i>See First Aid Policy and Intimate Care Policy</i></b></p>	<p>Typical response to First Aid requirements remain. You must provide PPE for staff to use when dealing with Intimate Care of a pupil. This includes, Mask, Apron, Gloves and Visor.</p> <p>Schools must ensure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff dealing with suspected Covid-19 cases must wear full complement of PPE</li> <li>Staff must know how to don and doff the PPE and dispose of it appropriately.</li> <li>Isolation area must be determined. Consider allocating a ventilated space (not necessarily a whole room) for this provision</li> <li>Arrangements for isolation and collection if a child shows symptoms whilst in school is communicated to all parents/carers.</li> </ul> <p>All other non-topical First Aid requirements will continue in typical fashion. Staff may chose not to wear PPE for this task at their will.</p> <p><b>PPE is encouraged to only be worn for First Aid, Intimate Care and Cleaning.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Symptoms and Positive Test</u></b></p>	<p>If anyone in setting develops symptoms of coronavirus, they should be sent home to follow public health advice and get a test. Schools will follow NHS Test and Trace incorporated into the Infection Control Policy. NO LONGER REQUIRED TO ISOLATE AS BUBBLES. Related to the individual alone.</p>
<p><b><u>Remote Learning</u></b></p>	<p>Access to remote learning should be made, if the isolating pupil is well enough to engage.</p>
<p><b><u>Educational Visits</u></b></p>	<p>Educational Visits may be planned in a typical manner.</p>
<p><b><u>Pupils</u></b></p>	<p>Welfare and Wellbeing will be the first priority in Autumn term. Safeguarding concerns will be monitored in the usual manner A DSL and First Aider to be on site at all times – usual practice</p>

<p><b><u>Behaviour and Expectations</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Assemblies - gatherings</u></b></p>	<p>Behaviour Policy will be adjusted and implemented at local level to account for any specific known case which potentially compromises H&amp;S of staff.</p> <p>Schools can return to full assemblies and mixing of cohorts to aid a full and broad balanced curriculum delivery. Consideration to Key Stage operations may be worthwhile.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p>	<p><b>WHOLE CLASS BUBBLE – Sept 2021 onwards</b></p>
<p><b><u>SLT School</u></b></p>	<p>Regular SLT and staff meetings will commence in person, maintaining social distancing where possible.</p>
<p><b><u>Staff</u></b></p>	<p>Policies and Procedures including Risk Assessments should be communicated using RecordMY /Safeguard as must reads and or paper copies circulated to those without access</p>
<p><b><u>Parents/pupils</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Attendance</u></b></p>	<p>Information should be shared with Parents in sufficient time ahead of the beginning of term, if changes made are significant.</p> <p>Where to obtain LFD tests and links to PHE guidance will continue to be shared with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Attendance is mandatory, any absence related to Covid should be recorded as code X</p>
<p><b><u>Governance</u></b></p>	<p>Governors will be communicated with regularly. Chairs of governors are involved in key decisions on reopening with LA and DfE informed of all plan at Trust level</p> <p>Schools must ensure Governors are kept up to date – Chair of Governor should disseminate information to whole LGB</p> <p>Autumn term 1 meetings will be face to face where possible.</p>