

Risk Assessment Overview: For opening September 6th 2021

Details

<p>School: Avanti Meadows Primary School</p>	<p>Department: Whole School</p>
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Risk Assessment Title:

General Risk Assessment – Coronavirus COVID 6th September 2021

Who is at Risk?

<p>People at Direct Risk: Staff, Pupils and Visitors</p>	<p>Other People Who Could be Affected: Parents</p>
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Summary of Risk

<p>What is your assessment of the risk <u>before</u> the ACTION PLAN is completed?:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Med risk</p>
<p>In light of What will the level of risk be <u>after</u> the ACTION PLAN is completed?:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Low risk</p>

Note: if the risk is still classified as 'High', even if you were to complete the action plan, then the hazard should be neutralised immediately (e.g. by stopping the activity or making the area safe) and the school safety co-ordinator and the relevant manager should be informed.

Assessment and Action Plan

What are the hazards	What might happen?	Controls	Control in Place?		
			Yes	No	N/A
Staff/pupils/parents may not know when to isolate	Spread of the virus	<p>The main change is to rules about isolation for contacts: people who are identified as contacts of a positive case are exempt from isolation if they are in one of the following categories. They are however strongly recommended to get a PCR test as soon as possible after being identified as a contact.</p> <p>Categories of people who do not have to isolate despite being contacts of a positive case:</p> <p>fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since the final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 18 years, 6 months old • taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial • not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons 	X		
Social distancing	Spread of the virus/confusion	The DfE national guidance no longer requires this, however Avanti Meadows will be ready to reintroduce social distancing controls if required by the local situation.	X		
Poor hygiene	Spread of the virus	<p>At Avanti Meadows we will maintain good hygiene and appropriate cleaning regimes, keep our building well ventilated, promote prompt testing and isolation of suspected cases, asymptomatic testing and support the vaccination uptake.</p> <p>All hard surfaces to be cleaned on a regular basis, this will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All door handles • All tables and chairs used by staff and pupils • Toilet flushes and regular cleaning of toilets. 	X		
Intervention groups and bubbles	Interventions do not take place as staff continue to maintain bubbles which impacts on learning	<p>There is no longer any requirement to keep pupils in separate bubbles. We will introduce intervention groups to support teaching and learning goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies will take place face to face in the hall from the 6th September. • Children will be able to mix during playtimes and if needed at other times of the day. 	X		

What are the hazards	What might happen?	Controls	Control in Place?		
			Yes	No	N/A
Face coverings	Parents, staff and pupils are unsure if they should wear a mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no requirement on adults to wear face coverings. We will support members of staff and pupils to wear a mask if they wish to. Face coverings are expected to be worn on public transport both by adults and by pupils. 	X		
Start and end of day	Close contact with people from other households	Staggering the start and end times was an attempt to help parents achieve the social distancing that was a requirement. Staggered start and end times are no longer appropriate; however, Avanti Meadows will continue to remind parents of the ongoing pandemic and the national recommendation to limit close contact with people from other households and that only one parent comes to pick up their child from school.	X		
Reporting cases to the LA and Trust	LA are unaware of positive cases at Avanti Meadows and do not alert Public Health	We need to know about positive cases of Covid at Avanti Meadows so that the borough/Trust can potentially alert Public Health team to emerging issues in the local area. Please do inform the school if your child tests positive. Staff members will inform the school if they test positive.	X		
Tightening restrictions	School is not aware of the contingency plans set by the DFE	The DfE's Contingency Framework sets out thresholds which would trigger involvement from the local Public Health team.	X		
Restricting attendance for staff and pupils who are contacts of positive cases on Health and Safety grounds	Restricting attendance impacts on learning	At current levels of in-school transmission and with the current dominant variant (delta) it is not believed that restricting attendance would be a necessary or proportionate response to the level of risk. Any decision to introduce restrictions on attendance would only be taken with the support of the Director of Public Health. Engagement between schools and the Public Health team would be triggered by the thresholds set out in the DfE Contingency Framework being exceeded.	X		
School is unsure of what to do if a pupil tests positive following a LFT	Confusion, wrong information is shared with parents. Child could attend school and as a result the virus spreads	The school will remind the pupil/parents that the pupil should isolate pending result of a PCR test. The NHS Test & Trace will identify contacts if the PCR is positive – as the school is not required to track and trace close contacts.	X		

What are the hazards	What might happen?	Controls	Control in Place?		
			Yes	No	N/A
Pupil has tested positive on PCR	Confusion, wrong information is shared with parents. Child could attend school and as a result the virus spreads	<p>Remind the pupil/parents that the pupil should isolate in line with instructions from NHS Test & Trace. The NHS Test & Trace will identify contacts – the school is not required to.</p> <p>If support is needed, the school will email COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>If any of the following thresholds are met, the school will contact COVID.EYSEducation@hertfordshire.gov.uk for further support:-</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; <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period <p>In addition, contact will be made if:- A student or staff member is admitted to hospital or a death as a result of a COVID–19 infection as the setting may require advice on risk assessment and communication.</p> <p>The school is also aware that contact can be made for advice and support</p>	X		
A member of staff has tested positive on LFD	Confusion, wrong information is shared with parents. Child could attend school and as a result the virus spreads	We will remind the employee that they should isolate pending result of a PCR test. The school will identify staff who are contacts of the case and call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715.	X		
A member of staff has tested positive on PCR	Confusion, wrong information is shared with parents. Child could attend school and as a result the virus spreads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will remind the employee that they should isolate in line with instructions from NHS Test & Trace. • The school will identify staff who are contacts of the case and call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on 020 3743 6715. 	X		
Pupil has symptoms of Covid and parent insists the pupil attends school	Spread of the virus	If a parent or carer insists on a pupil with symptoms attending school, Avanti Meadows can refuse the pupil in order to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection.	X		

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Hygiene	Children and staff do not regularly wash/sanitize hands and as a result the virus spreads	<p>Children will wash/ sanitize their hands on entry to their classroom, before and after play, before and after lunch, before and after PE and before leaving school. Staff will be reminded to do the same.</p> <p>The Site Team will ensure that all classrooms/areas have the necessary equipment in working order to ensure hygiene measures are in place.</p>	X		
Disruption to the running of the school in cases of local outbreak	Virus spreads Disruption to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has an up-to-date Business Continuity Plan in place – the plan is reviewed as necessary. The school adheres to and keeps up-to-date with the latest local and national advice about school closures – advice is sought from the local HPT or DfE helpline where required. The school will follow Government advice and follow any instructions 	X		
Lack of infection control	Spread of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spillages of bodily fluids, e.g., respiratory and nasal discharges, are cleaned up immediately in line with guidance, using PPE at all times. Parents are informed not to bring their children to school or on the school premises if they show signs of being unwell and believe they have been exposed to coronavirus. Staff and pupils do not return to school before the minimum recommended exclusion period (or the 'self-isolation' period) has passed, in line with national guidance. Pupils who are unwell are not taken on school trips or permitted to enter public areas used for teaching, e.g., swimming pools. Parents notify the school if their child has an impaired immune system or a medical condition that means they are vulnerable to infections. The school in liaison with individuals' medical professionals where necessary, reviews the needs of pupils who are vulnerable to infections. Any additional provisions for pupils who are vulnerable to infections are put in place by the headteacher, in liaison with the pupil's parents where necessary. 	X		
Classroom management	Infection control	It is no longer required for forward facing tables etc. however care should still be taken on table management in a classroom setting.	X		
Playtime and using equipment	Infection control	No restrictions are in place regarding using and sharing play equipment.	X		

What are the hazards	What might happen?	Controls	Control in Place?		
			Yes	No	N/A
Ill health	Coronavirus Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed of the symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, e.g., a cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste and high temperature and are kept up-to-date with national guidance about the signs, symptoms and transmission of coronavirus. • Any pupil or member of staff who displays signs of being unwell, such as having a cough, fever or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, and believes they have been exposed to coronavirus, is immediately taken out of the class and placed in an area where they will not come into contact with others and are supervised at all times. • For pupils the relevant member of staff calls for emergency assistance immediately if pupils' symptoms worsen. • The parents of unwell pupils are informed as soon as possible of the situation by a relevant member of staff. • Where contact with a pupil's parents cannot be made, appropriate procedures are followed in accordance with those outlined in governmental guidance. • Unwell pupils who are waiting to go home are kept in an area where they can be at least two metres away from others. • Areas used by unwell staff and pupils who need to go home are appropriately cleaned once vacated, using a disinfectant and care to be taken when cleaning all hard surfaces. • If unwell pupils and staff are waiting to go home, they are instructed to use different toilets to the rest of the school to minimise the spread of infection. • Any pupils who display signs of infection are taken home immediately, or as soon as practicable, by their parents – the parents are advised to contact NHS 111 immediately or call 999 if the pupil becomes seriously ill or their life is at risk. • Any members of staff who display signs of infection are sent home immediately and are advised to contact NHS 111 immediately or call 999 if they become seriously ill or their life is at risk. 	X		
Autumn Term Asymptomatic testing	Virus may spread	<p>No testing is required of Primary age children</p> <p>Staff should be advised to undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September when this will be reviewed-staff will be signposted of where to obtain the LFT</p>	X		

What are the hazards	What might happen?	Controls	Control in Place?		
			Yes	No	N/A
Poor management of infectious diseases	Virus may spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are instructed to monitor themselves and others and look out for similar symptoms if a pupil or staff member has been sent home with suspected coronavirus. Staff are vigilant and report concerns about their own, a colleague's or a pupil's symptoms to the Head of School or School Business Manager as soon as possible. The school is consistent in its approach to the management of suspected and confirmed cases of coronavirus. The school is informed by pupils' parents when pupils return to school after having coronavirus – the school informs the relevant staff. Staff inform the headteacher when they plan to return to work after having coronavirus. The Site Manager monitors the cleaning standards of school cleaning contractors and discusses any additional measures required with regards to managing the spread of coronavirus. 	X		
Lack of communication	Confusion/ Unsafe Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school staff reports immediately to the head of school about any cases of suspected coronavirus, even if they are unsure. The head of school contacts the local HPT or follows the advice given from and discusses if any further action needs to be taken. Avanti Meadows will put into place any actions or precautions advised by their local HPT. Avanti Meadows will keep staff and parents adequately updated about any changes to infection control procedures as necessary. 	X		
CEV children	Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CEV children should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend CEV people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus 	X		
Educational visits	Financial risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will ensure that it has adequate financial protection in place Full risk assessments must be undertaken before any class is allowed off site. 	X		

This risk assessment will remain under review by SafetyMARK to address any changes in Government / Public Health England advice. Updated risk assessments will be created and added to the Resource Library you have access to as soon as practicable.

Sign Off Sheet

Assessor Details:

Assessor(s) name:

Cimone Brown

Assessor(s) signature:

Cimone Brown

Date:

3rd September 2021

Further information can be found at:

DfE operational guidance for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

DfE contingency framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

NHS guidance for employers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance>

Updated DfE guidance on health and safety: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-advice-for-schools/responsibilities-and-duties-for-schools>