

RA 029A Omicron Variant Full Opening of school v1 29th Nov 2021

RISK ASSESSMENT RECORDING FORM

Location or School Address: Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic Primary School	Date assessment Undertaken: 29 November 2021	Assessment undertaken by: Elaine McGunigall under the guidance provided by Jeanne Fairbrother
Activity or situation: RA 029A Omicron Variant Full Opening of school v1 29th Nov 2021	Review date: As required, following Government and PHE advice as soon as practical	Signature:

Background information

This update is in response to the DFE update on 29th November 2021 due to the new Omicron variant. DfE Schools operational guidance updated 08.59 29th Nov 2021.

School Opening

DfE guidance for schools during the coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic has been that schools are required to have a full school opening risk assessment which is regularly reviewed and updated, treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in your school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

Guidance

This risk assessment has regard to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
- Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'
- NEW DfE (2021) 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance'
- UPDATED DfE (2021) 'Actions for early years and childcare settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'
- DfE (2021) 'Face coverings in education'
- **UPDATED** 'Actions for out of school settings'

See [UPDATED] sections.

Legislation and guidance

Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 Management of H&S at Work Regulations 1999 Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 DfE Actions for schools plus associated COVID 19 Guidance Public Health England Guidance

N.B. All risk assessments referred to within this document have been revised and are available on our website www.jeannefairbrotherassociates.com

1) Hazard / Activity	2) Who can be harmed and how?	3) What controls exist to reduce the risk? Have you followed the hierarchy of controls (eliminate, substitute etc)?	Risk Score Consequence X Likelihood	4) Any further action. This should be included in the action plan (5), below
Failure to assess the risks of COVID 19 (including Omicron) transmission in school.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has assessed the reasonably foreseeable risks of transmission of COVID 19 The risk assessment is regularly reviewed as circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. School monitors whether the controls in place are effective. 	3X2=6	
Failing to have adequate outbreak management/contingency plans to allow for stepping measures up and down.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School has a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Contingency Plan risk assessment. See RA 029B Contingency plan latest version (also known as an outbreak management plan) if restrictions need to be implemented due to COVID 19 variants outbreak. School contingency plan was put into effect on 2 November 2021. Remote education plans are in place for pupils who are self-isolating or shielding. Parents / Carers of self isolating pupils will be provided with a work pack on the first day of isolation. School will call the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of the outbreak management plan. School will follow measures recommended by the Local Authority, Director of Public Health and local protection teams (HPTs) as part of the outbreak management responsibilities. Wirral schools contact Wirral LA Covid helpline 0151 666 3600 Email: covidschoolsupport@wirral.gov.uk Public Health and the Local Authority will be informed of any outbreaks via NHS T&T. 	3X2=6	

Communication Wellbeing - staff & pupils	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19 Staff & pupils exposed to mental health issues due to COVID 19	 School follows latest DfE, PHE & Gov.uk, Merseyside & Cheshire PH Team and LA guidance Latest version RA 029A Omicron Variant Full Opening of school v1 published to website & shared with unions, LA & governors. Clear communication sent to parents and pupils with a link on the school website covering all aspects of how school will function. Regular staff briefings held to cover any changes to arrangements. School has shared with all staff the measures in place and involved staff & the governing body in that process. A record is kept of all visitors and contractors that come to the school site. Staff are vigilant in discerning pupil mental health and report any concerns to the Inclusion Team The school provides opportunities for pupils to talk about 	3X2=6 3X2=6	
		 their mental health and experiences during the pandemic. Pupils have access to pastoral support and activities, e.g. opportunities to renew and develop friendships. Pupil and parent surveys are sent out to assess how they feel about being on the school site and to enable staff to act on any concerns pupils and parents may have. 		
[UPDATED] Face coverings	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Staff and adult visitors should wear a face covering when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas (offices, kitchens and staff rooms). Staff should wear a face visor during PPA. Classroom staff should wear a face visor whilst in the classroom. Face visors or shields are not worn as an equivalent alternative to face coverings; however, they can be worn by those exempt from wearing face coverings. 	3X2=6	

		School outbreak management plans cover the possibility of		
		face coverings being reintroduced:		
		o transparent face coverings can also be worn.		
		o face visors or shields can be worn only after		
		carrying out a risk assessment for the specific		
		situation and should always be cleaned		
		appropriately.		
		 School will not prevent individuals from entering or 		
		attending school if they are not wearing a face covering, if		
		exempt.		
		School has a supply of face coverings available at the front		
		of school, in all offices and staff rooms. Staff can request		
		further face coverings if required.		
		Clear instructions are provided on how to put on, remove,		
		store, and dispose of face coverings.		
PPE	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Most staff in education, childcare and children's social care	3X2=6	
	contractors increased risk	settings will not require PPE in response to COVID-19		
	of transmission of COVID	beyond what they would normally need for their work.		
	19	 Additional PPE for COVID-19 is only required in a very 		
		limited number of scenarios:		
		o If a child, young person or student becomes ill with		
		COVID 19 symptoms and only if close contact is		
		necessary		
		 when performing aerosol generating procedures 		
		AGP's		
		When working with pupils who cough, spit, vomit or require		
		intimate care but do not have coronavirus symptoms, staff		
		only wear PPE that would routinely be worn.		
		Staff are trained in correct use and disposal of PPE.		
		·		

School fails to ensure good	Staff, pupils, visitors,	Hand hygiene -	3X2=6	
hygiene & cleaning	contractors increased risk	School will continue to ensure that staff & pupils maintain		
standards in school to	of transmission of COVID	high standards of hand hygiene.		
reduce risk of transmission.	19	Suitable facilities are provided for individuals to		
		wash/sanitise their hands regularly		
		Pupils are supervised, where appropriate, to use hand		
		sanitizer safely.		
		Respiratory hygiene		
		• School emphasises the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with		
		bins & tissues available.		
		Cleaning		
		School will maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using		
		standard products such as detergents with a focus on		
		frequently touched areas.		
		Appropriate cleaning schedules are in place and include		
		regular cleaning of areas and equipment		
[UPDATE] Social distancing	Staff, pupils, visitors,	School has planned and risk assessed carefully following	3X2=6	If you identify any actions
[OI DAIL] Social distancing	contractors increased risk	the latest DfE/PHE guidance	Review this	to complete, transfer
	of transmission of COVID	School will consult Local Authority COVID helpline for	score as the	them to the action plan
	19	specific advice if required	more measures	below (5)
		School has continued to utilise staggered breaks and	in place will	
		lunchtimes.	reduce it	
		Staff meetings in a larger, well-ventilated space.		
		Staff Rooms are well-ventilated, staff wear a face covering		
		unless eating or drinking. In the main school, three staff		
		rooms are in use; Empower room, multi practical room and		
		the existing staff room. Eating areas have been identified to		
		assist with social distancing. All staff have been reminded to		
		be seated at least 1m apart.		
		 Meetings, including with governors, parents, teams, Zoom 		
		etc. may continue.		
		Teaching or holding meetings in well-ventilated areas		
		wherever possible, such as outdoors or indoors with		
		windows open.		
		School has outbreak management plans in place to		
		reintroduce bubbles temporarily if it becomes necessary due		

[UPDATE] Events in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 to local outbreaks or increases in cases at the instruction of PHE Teams. See RA 029B Contingency Plan School has planned and completed a separate risk assessment for any events held in school and has carefully following the latest DfE/PHE guidance School will consult Local Authority COVID helpline for specific advice if required on holding events Parents evening is scheduled for Spring 2022. This will be risk assessed if deemed appropriate. Christmas performances and events have been risk assessed. The decision was undertaken to record the performance and make it available for parents / carers. 	3X2=6	
Ventilation - failure to ensure all occupied spaces are well ventilated.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 When school is in operation, it is well ventilated with comfortable teaching environments. Poorly ventilated spaces have been identified. Main school office has a CO2 monitor to measure ventilation. Window opens partially at all times. When holding events where visitors are on site e.g. school plays, ventilation is increased. School has competent ventilation engineers to help assess the systems in place and how to utilise them correctly. Mechanical ventilation is adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated. Systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply. All mechanical ventilation systems are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations. School opens external windows, doors & internal doors (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) to increase ventilation. 	3X2=6	

indoor in Purging ventilation Outside Co2 monitor ventilated we ventilated we ventilation in manufacture. Hepa UVc fit. Local air cleater transmission adequate ventilation. If you decided to use are: high-efficial ultravior. Any unit used in a See The Heat conditioning CIBSE COVIDE.	of aerosols where it is not possible to maintain intilation. These units are not a substitute for to use an air cleaning unit, the most suitable types ciency filters et-based devices should be appropriate for the size of the area it's or ensure it works in the way it's intended to. Ith and Safety Executive <u>quidance on air and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak</u> & advice provides more information.
- School failing to manage contractors increased risk Trace an	ntacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and deducation settings are not expected to undertake
tracing close contacts of transmission of COVID contact	racing
19	

- NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts.
 Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent
 specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
 School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with
 - identifying close contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.
 All individuals who have been identified as a close contact
 - 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.
 - Schools may be advised by their local Incident Management Team (IMT) investigating a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.
 - For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, 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.
 - School will 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 of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, should continue to attend school as normal. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday. School will continue to work with the local director of Public Health & local HP Teams. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or in the case of a local outbreak and if the area becomes an Enhanced Support Area. Anyone in school who displays symptoms is encouraged to get a PCR test 	
Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School makes clear that testing is voluntary. Staff in all education settings are encouraged to test twice weekly at home Testing kits are stored securely in school at the correct temperature. A test kit log is in use and data held is stored in line with the school's Data Protection Policy. Confirmatory PCR tests Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 & self-isolate until they get the result. 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 the individual can return to school if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms. 	3X2=6

[UPDATE] Asymptomatic testing	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19.	 Staff in primary schools should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged. Primary age pupils (Y 6 and below) will not be expected to test over the summer period. 	3X2=6
[UPDATE]School fails to follow public health advice on managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Parents are informed via email / SchoolSpider / social media pages / telephone calls of how the school responds to confirmed cases of coronavirus School follows local public health advice The headteacher contacts the DFE Helpline/local HP Team advice line immediately in the event of an outbreak or cluster and a rapid risk assessment to identify appropriate next steps. 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period 	3X2=6
Contact with potential or confirmed coronavirus cases in school	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 If anyone in the school develops coronavirus symptoms while at school, this is managed in line with local and national guidance. They are: sent home and advised to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. advised to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in a well-ventilated room on their own if possible and, if safe to do so. Appropriate PPE will used if close contact is necessary. Anyone with symptoms is advised not to use public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. Any rooms used are cleaned thoroughly after they have left. 	3X2=6

		 Anyone who comes into contact with a symptomatic individual washes their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and warm running water or hand sanitiser. Staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with someone with symptoms do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms. School can take the decision if a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending, to refuse the pupil, if in its reasonable judgement the pupil poses a risk of infection to the school community. 	
[UPDATE] Pregnant staff inadequate measures in place	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 An individual risk assessment is carried out for pregnant staff with appropriate risk mitigation in line with the latest recommendations from DHSC, PHE & RCOG. See RA 026 New & Expectant member of staff. Pregnant staff of any gestation are not required to continue working on site if this is not supported by the separate risk assessment. Staff who are in the below categories should take a more precautionary approach: partially vaccinated or unvaccinated >28 weeks pregnant and beyond, or are pregnant and have an underlying health condition that puts them at a greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus at any gestation School will undertake a workplace risk assessment for the above staff (See RA 026), and where appropriate consider both how to redeploy them and how to maximise the potential for home working, wherever possible. The above principles on protecting pregnant staff also apply to pregnant pupils. 	3X2=6
[UPDATE] Previously shielding staff	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Pregnant staff are encouraged to get vaccinated if possible. The shielding programme has now come to an end and adults previously considered CEV should, as a minimum, continue to follow the same guidance as everyone else. 	3X2=6

[UPDATE] Previously shielding pupils	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Staff previously considered CEV may wish to consider taking extra precautions and the school will explain the measures they have in place to keep staff safe at work. The UK Clinical Review Panel has recommended that no children and young people under the age of 18 should be considered CEV and under-18s should be removed from the Shielded Patient List 	3X2=6
[UPDATE] Transport	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School will speak to the local authority to request a copy of their updated risk assessment. Drivers and passenger assistants will not normally require personal protective equipment (PPE) on home to school transport. Pupils who require care and interventions that require the use of PPE before COIVD-19, will continue as usual. Pupils do not board home to school transport if they, or a member of their household, has a positive test result or symptoms of coronavirus. School liaises with the LA and other transport providers to ensure they are adopting COVID-secure protocols, and requests a copy of their risk assessment, where relevant. Face coverings are expected to be worn in enclosed and crowded places - this includes public and dedicated school transport. Pupils are advised to clean their hands before boarding transport and again on disembarking. Additional cleaning of vehicles is carried out regularly. Fresh air through ventilation is maximised by opening windows and ceiling vents. 	3X2=6
[UPDATE] Educational visits	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	A full and thorough risk assessment in relation to all educational visits is carried out to ensure that any public health advice, such as hygiene and ventilation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment. See Edsential	3X2=6

[NEW] Staff & pupils returning to the UK from abroad.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 Evolve for further assistance. lotc@edsential.co.uk or tel 0151 541 2170 Ex 4 Any staff or pupils arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine. 	3X2=6
Extracurricular activities & Out-of-school settings and wraparound provision - inadequate measures in place.	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	 School works to provide all before and after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare for all pupils Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers can offer provision to all children Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare and other organised activities for children may take place in groups of any number. Out-of-school settings and wraparound provisions are run in line with the current government guidance & system of controls. Parents are advised of the provision available and that they should limit the use of multiple out-of-school settings providers where appropriate. 	3X2=6
Curriculum - Music, drama, science & DT, and sporting activities	Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors increased risk of transmission of COVID 19	School & staff are aware that there is evidence to suggest that singing and playing wind and brass instruments increases the risk of coronavirus transmission due to the cumulative aerosol transmission. Drama School completed risk assessments for Drama and ensured the relevant protective measures are in place Sports	3X2=6

- The school only permits team sports on the list in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) team sport guidance.
- Sports equipment is thoroughly cleaned between each use.
- School swimming and water safety lessons are conducted in line with Swim England's guidance.
- Outdoor sports are prioritised where possible.
- Large indoor spaces with maximised natural ventilation flows, e.g. through opening windows and doors, are used where outdoor sports are not possible.
- Staff overseeing indoor sports follow the system of controls in this risk assessment e.g. cleaning and hygiene.
- Staff are made aware that social distancing in sports is not required unless directed.
- Measures are in place to minimise the risk of transmission in changing rooms, in line with DCMS guidance.
- External facilities are used in line with government guidance, including travel to and from those facilities.
- School works with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular and extracurricular activities and considers how such arrangements operate within the school's wider protective measures.
- Competitions between different schools, whether indoor or outdoor, can take place in line with government guidance.

Science

 Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system of controls in school.

GL343 - Guide to doing practical work during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Science (New version)

DT

• Follows latest guidance from CLEAPSS in addition to system of controls in school.

GL344 Guidance on practical work during the COVID-19 pandemic - D&T

Insert any local hazards here	Who can be harmed & how?	Insert measures to reduce the risk identified.	3X2=6 Review this	If you identify any actions to complete, transfer
			score as the more measures	them to the action plan below (5)
			in place will	
			reduce it.	

Risk Rating	Action Required	
20 - 25	Unacceptable – stop activity and make immediate improvements	
10 - 16	Urgent action – take immediate action and stop activity, if necessary, maintain existing controls vigorously	
5 - 9	Action – Improve within specific timescales	
3 - 4	Monitor – but look to improve at review or if there is a significant change	
1 - 2	Acceptable – no further action but ensure controls are maintained & reviewed	



Likelihood: Consequence:

- 5 Very likely
- 5 Catastrophic
- 4 Likely
- 4 Major
- 3 Fairly likely
- 3 Moderate
- 2 Unlikely
- 2 Minor

- 1 Very unlikely 1 Insignificant

- (1) List hazards something with the potential to cause harm here
- (2) List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazards which you have identified
 - List existing controls here or note where the information may be found. Then try to quantify the level of risk the likelihood of harm arising that remains when the existing controls are in place based on the number of persons affected, how often they are exposed to the hazard and the severity of any consequence. Use this column to list the controls that you might take and develop all or some of that list into a workable action plan. Have regard for the level of risk, the cost of any action and the benefit you expect to gain. Agree the action plan with your team leader and make a note of it overleaf. If it is agreed that no further action is to be taken this too should be noted.

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(5) **ACTION PLAN**

	5. Action plan	Responsible	Completed
1	Please transfer all actions to this action plan page nominate a responsible person and timescale		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
1			
0			
	Action plan agreed by (NAME & DATE)		