

Safety, Health and Environment (SHE)

GCC COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS



School employers are required to assess the risks associated with COVID-19 and implement preventative measures outlined in Government guidance. This risk assessment will supplement any existing risk assessments in educational settings.

RAG rated - Not yet addressed In process will be in place by 28th May In place

COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Schools and other Educational Settings

ASSESS

Decide appropriate control measures for managers and employees to implement under a 'Plan', 'Do', 'Review' cycle.

*The preventative measures in this risk assessment are not mandatory but are provided as guidance on reducing the risk of transmission. Each school/setting must consider their own situation and adapt the assessment by editing the measures where appropriate. Remove any measures that are not relevant or will not be applied in your setting and add any additional local measures that you are implementing.

Who may be at risk: Employees, pupils and young people, families (parents, carers and siblings), visitors, contractors, members of public.

Vulnerable groups – this risk assessment considers vulnerable groups which the NHS lists as 'people at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable)'; and 'people at moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)'. An individual risk assessment may be appropriate for vulnerable employees plus BAME and those who are very anxious about returning to their workplace.

PLAN		DO			REVIEW
Prepare Building	Prepare Employees and Parents and pupils	Control Access	Implementing Social Distancing	Implement Infection Control Measures	Communicate and Review Arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening (e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, water hygiene). COVID-19 posters/signage displayed Modify school reception/ early years entrance to maintain social distancing (e.g. provide screens or floor markings). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve employees in plans to return to school and listen to any suggestions on preventative measures that can be taken. Vulnerable employees and pupils ('clinically vulnerable' to coronavirus) identified and told not to attend school if shielding. Consider personal risk factors: age, obesity, pregnancy, existing health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry points to school controlled (including deliveries). Building access rules clearly communicated through signage on entrances. Parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols to minimise contact. School start times staggered so class groups arrive at different times. Floor markings outside school to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe distancing or 2 metres is a preventative measure that will be adopted so far as is reasonably practicable but it is acknowledged that this is not always possible in schools. However, all the measures in this assessment are aimed at reducing transmission risk. Reduced class sizes. Class groups kept together throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where there is no sink, hand sanitiser provided in classrooms. Frequent hand washing encouraged for adults and pupils (following guidance on hand cleaning). Hands cleaned on arrival at school, before and after eating, and after 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with employees and awareness of trades union advice. Risk assessment published on school website. Nominated employees tasked to monitoring protection measures. Employees encourage to report any non compliance. The effectiveness of prevention measures will be

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherever possible one-way systems for circulation around the building.put in place In areas where queues may form, put down floor markings to indicate distancing. To avoid crossing paths all classes will use exterior classroom doors to access building Identify doors that can be propped open (to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation) taking account of fire safety and safeguarding. Identify rooms that can be accessed directly from outside (to avoid shared use of corridors). Organise classrooms for maintaining space between seats and desks. Inspect classrooms and remove unnecessary items. Remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean. 	<p>conditions and ethnicity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary individual risk assessments for employees and pupils at special risk (take account of medical advice). Review EHCPs where required. Regular communications that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, are not to attend school. Information shared about testing available for those with symptoms. Remote education is continuing as much as possible Assess how many employees are needed in school and identify those that can remain working from home. Employees shielding at home manage online work, whilst those in school teach. Returning to school will be for groups on a priority basis 	<p>indicate distancing rules (if queuing during peak times).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screens installed to protect employees in reception. Hand sanitiser provided at all entrances. Visitors sign in touch screen device cleaned after each use in reception. Staff on duty outside school to monitor protection measures. Breakfast and after school club staff meet parent/child at main school gate 	<p>the day and do not mix with other groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups do not mix to play sports or games together. The number of pupils in shared spaces (e.g. halls, dining areas) for lunch and exercise is limited to specific group(s). Assemblies held virtually or staggered. Separate spaces for each group clearly indicated in shared spaces (e.g. barriers or floor markings). Take out service only during lunch with pupils eating outside (weather permitting) or in classrooms. Limiting the number of pupils who use the toilet facilities at one time. Groups use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day. Seating plans to ensure pupils sit at the same desk. Desks should be spaced as far apart 	<p>sneezing or coughing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young pupils encouraged to learn and practise good hygiene habits through games, songs and repetition. Staff help is available for pupils who have trouble cleaning their hands independently. Adults and pupils are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose. Staff vigilant to pupils putting items in their mouths etc. and make sure these are dealt with immediately. Adults and pupils encouraged to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it') Bins for tissues provided and are emptied throughout the day. Spaces well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) 	<p>monitored by school leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This risk assessment will be reviewed if the risk level changes and/or in light of updated guidance.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put up laminated picture signs in toilets and classrooms in front of sinks showing handwashing. • Make arrangements with cleaners for additional cleaning and agree additional hours to allow for this. 	<p>reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to shortage of teachers, teaching assistants have been allocated to lead groups, working under the direction of a teacher. • Curriculum reviewed to ensure needs of children met and social distancing maintained • Smaller class groups identified to fit into classrooms with 2m distance, with no more than 15 pupils per small group to one teacher and, if needed, a teaching assistant • Identify and plan lessons that could take place outdoors. • Movement around the school as all lessons taught in own classroom or outdoors in own class zone • Break times staggered and take place in own zone • Communicate to parents on the preventative 		<p>as possible. with at least 2m between pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same. • Members of staff come to the classroom rather than groups of pupils circulate to different parts of the building/site. • Rooms accessed directly from outside • The occupancy of staff rooms and offices limited. • Radios provided and/or encouraging use of phones to communicate between different parts of school. • Members of staff are on duty at breaks to ensure compliance with rules.- pupils stay in own areas with own staff group • Out of school/breakfast club have access to classroom unused in school day or following day and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors propped open, where safe to do so to limit use of door handles. Ensure closed when premises unoccupied. • Sanitising spray and paper towels to be provided in classrooms for use by members of staff. • Thorough cleaning of rooms at the end of the day. • Shared materials and surfaces cleaned and disinfected frequently (e.g. toys, books areas of doors that are frequently handled, sinks, toilets, light switches,. • Toys and play equipment appropriately cleaned between groups of pupils using it, and not shared with multiple groups. • Equipment used in practical lessons kept within own class area. • Outdoor equipment – tyres and plastic pallets, appropriately 	
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	<p>measures being taken - risk assessment in initial communication and on school website).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents informed only one parent to accompany child to school. • Parents and pupils encouraged to walk or cycle where possible. • Staggered drop-off and collection times planned and communicated to parents. • Made clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors. • No face to face meetings held - telephone appointments only if they wish to discuss their child • No toys and other play items from home.will be allowed • Daily briefing to pupils on school rules and measures with reminders before leaving rooms. • Bbehaviour policy reviewed to show 		<p>limit number attending to 12 maximum</p>	<p>cleaned between groups of pupils;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple groups do not use outdoor equipment simultaneously. • Resources not taken home. • Avoid sharing books and other materials – individual resource packs made for each pupil. • No books or work handed in on paper. • Procedures should someone become unwell whilst attending school known to all • Staff providing close hands-on contact with pupils need to increase their level of self-protection, such as minimising close contact and having more frequent hand-washing and other hygiene measures, and regular cleaning of surfaces. <p>NOTE: Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended by PHE.</p>	
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	<p>how pupils not following distancing rules will be managed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees fully briefed about the plans and protective measures identified in the risk assessment. • Regular (daily) staff communications • Keeping in touch with off-site workers on their working arrangements including their welfare, mental and physical health and personal security. • Communication with contractors and suppliers that will need to prepare to support plans for opening (e.g. cleaning, catering, food supplies, hygiene suppliers). • Communication with others (e.g. extended school provision, lettings, regular visitors, etc.) • Limit visitors by exception (e.g. for priority contractors, emergencies etc.). • Keep parent appointments / external meetings 			<p>The majority of employees in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work (determined by existing risk assessment), even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pupils 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; • if a pupil becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. <p>However, PPE packs are being provided by GCC for all schools.</p> <p>Employees providing first aid to pupils will not be expected to maintain 2m distance. The following measures will be adopted:</p>	
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	on telephone or a 'virtual platform.'			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • washing hands or using hand sanitiser, before and after treating injured person; • wear gloves or cover hands when dealing with open wounds; • if CPR is required on an adult, attempt compression only CPR and early defibrillation until the ambulance arrives; • if CPR is required on a child, use a resuscitation face shield if available to perform mouth-to-mouth ventilation in asphyxial arrest. • dispose of all waste safely. <p>Should employees have close hands-on contact they should monitor themselves for symptoms of possible COVID-19 over the following 14 days.</p>	
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