



Risk Assessment Update – EXTENDED POST 14 Day Window

Portesham CE VA Primary School- Contingency Plan

Applies until review at end of November 2021

Rationale:

Following advice directly from Public Health England and the Local Authority, we will be implementing additional measures in order to mitigate

SW Regional Consensus Schools Statement – refreshed 21/10/21

*All South West local authority areas are in areas of **rapidly rising infection** and therefore triggering thresholds for additional action. To ensure consistency, South West Directors of Public Health have jointly agreed the additional advice and action set out below in order that their schools can implement additional Covid response measures as proportionate or necessary. This sits alongside the SW risk assessment tool to support consistency in both applying thresholds for action; working within the parameters set out within the educational Contingency Framework.*

Aims:

- 1. To protect population health and prevent widespread transmission of Covid 19*
- 2. To support schools and early years settings to stay open and to maximise children's access to education, learning and mental and emotional health*
- 3. To strengthen awareness of the identification of symptoms and key messages relating to testing*
- 4. To continue to promote and publicise the effectiveness of vaccination as the best protection for everyone*
- 5. To provide advice and consistency of approach across the region that helps schools take decisions when thresholds have been met on a case by case basis*

It has been identified that PHE feel there is a :

The greater prevalence is being seen in school age children and their families

*South West Directors of Public Health recommend schools invoke a precautionary and sensible set of measures; maintaining these for **14 days post half term** (whilst we review) to limit the impact of social mixing at half term.*

Particular measures for consideration on a case by case basis include:

- 1. Continued good infection prevention control (ventilation, touchpoint cleaning), including in areas where staff gather **Ventilation continues to be a priority within the school and as per the risk assessment remains the shared responsibility of all staff to ensure that adjustments***

are made during periods of colder weather (considerations of natural ventilation are implemented) In addition to this, we will continue to encourage regular handwashing.

2. Promote and publicise the effectiveness of vaccination as the best protection for all eligible cohorts including staff and students (No further action required by the school)

3. Continued efforts on testing. Examples are included in the DfE participation toolkit, including: a. Household siblings (secondary school age) of confirmed cases are advised to take daily LFD while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless test is positive). This is also advised for primary school aged children but is at the discretion of the parent/guardian b. Given high prevalence it is appropriate to recommend daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace whilst individuals await their PCR results c. Promotion of twice weekly asymptomatic testing d. During an outbreak and following a risk assessment with the Local Authority Public Health team or the UK Health Security Agency Health Protection Team, to extend daily LFD testing for close or household contacts (identified by NHS Test and Trace) while awaiting PCR results to a minimum of 5 days, increasing to 7 days as necessary to ensure the final test is taken on a school day e. If unwell stay at home. If negative for COVID individuals should still wait until 24hours post fever to go back into a setting. Colds and other non-Covid symptoms are circulating but in the first instance cardinal symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and trigger isolation and testing. This is the case even if others in the setting /group have tested negative for similar symptoms. We will continue to request PCR tests for symptomatic/ close contacts and following a negative test recommend LFT testing daily. Staff will be encouraged to test twice weekly using the LFT tests.

4. The introduction of face coverings in communal areas such as corridors when movement occurs between lessons (for secondary school and college settings). As a school, we will re-introduce the use of masks during corridors and at the beginning and end of the day when dismissing children.

5. Reduced mixing between groups of students as much as possible including consideration of pausing 'whole school' assemblies for the time being and any other 'large gatherings'. Whole school assemblies will be paused for the 14 day period and the site will remain closed to an 'unnecessary' groups or meetings. Any visitors to site will be encouraged to wear a face covering (unless exempt) and LFT before coming to site.

Mrs V Prior (Headteacher) and Mr C Burgess MBE (Chair of Governors) on the
22.10.21- Electronic Signatures

Staff Consulted: 15.11.21