



COVID 19 Protective Measures Risk Assessment 1st September 2021

This assessment enables the Trust to implement its recovery planning around a range of 'protective measures' from 1st September 2021. As most of the country has now moved to Step 4 of the government roadmap, this risk assessment has been updated to reflect the changes.

This COVID 19 protective measures risk assessment is based on the Surrey County Council Recovery Planning Team template that has been quality assured by Public Health Surrey. The Good Shepherd Trust has oversight of the template for all Trust schools. All School leaders have had an opportunity to inform this assessment, and will be responsible for implementing the localised operating protocols for each school.

All Trust staff will all have an opportunity to inform the successful implementation of recommended controls, mitigation and protective Measures.

In recognition of the dynamic situation, this risk assessment will be reviewed or superseded where guidance from the government changes, or where improvements are required following implementation by the Trust and Schools at a local level (daily or weekly). This Risk Assessment should be read in conjunction with individual school Covid Outbreak Management Plans.

This assessment should be used alongside the government guidance below:

[Covid-19 Contingency Framework.](#)

[Surrey County Council local outbreak control plan](#)

[Hampshire County Council local outbreak control plan](#)

If you wish to contact us about this document, please email:

Louisa Mason (H&S Lead) louisa.mason@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk

Amanda Johnston (Regional Director of Education and Designated Safeguarding Lead) Amanda.johnson@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk

For specific enquiries regarding employment matters, please contact Director of HR Joanne Cambra
joanne.cambra@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk

	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Awareness of and adherence to policies and procedures	M	1. All staff are aware of all relevant policies and procedures including, but not limited to, the following Health and Safety Policy, Infection Control Arrangements from Public Health Agency, First Aid Policy / risk assessment	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
		2. School leaders and other relevant staff have regard to all relevant guidance and legislation including, but not limited to, the following:				
	M	a. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	b. The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	c. Public Health England (PHE) (2017) 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	d. DofE Contingency Framework: education and childcare settings	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. The relevant staff receive any necessary training that helps minimise the spread of infection, e.g. infection control training.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. School leaders keep up-to-date with advice issued by, but not limited to, the following: DfE; NHS; Department of Health and Social Care; PHE	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	5. Staff are made aware of the school's infection control procedures in relation to coronavirus via email;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).				
H	If anyone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.	Y	Admin	1 st September	Low
H	2. For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.	Y	Admin	1 st September 2021	Low
H	3. If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary, further information on this can be found in the use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left. The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.	Y	Admin+ Caretaker	1 st September 2021	Low

		<p>8. In an emergency, 999 should be called if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.</p> <p>9. Any medication given to ease the unwell individual's symptoms, e.g. paracetamol, is administered in accordance with the Administering Medications Policy</p>	Y	ADMIN/HT	1 st September 2021	
			Y	FIRST AID		
	M	10. Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test & Trace.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
Face Coverings	M	1. From Step 4, face coverings are no longer recommended for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Pupils aged 11 are advised to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college.	Y	YEAR 6 Teacher	1 st September 2021	Low

		<p>Temporary Additional Measures in the event of an Outbreak</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In the event of an outbreak, Contingency framework: education and childcare settings - will be referred to in reimplementing the use of face coverings. 4. Face coverings will temporarily be re-introduced in communal areas and classrooms for pupils (aged 11 and over) and staff and visitors, unless exempt. 5. Transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn. 6. Face visors or shields can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. They should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately. 	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
			Y	HT		
			Y	HT		
			Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
Educational Visits	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the start of the new school term the school can go on international visits that have previously been deferred or postponed and organise new international visits for the future. This is at school leaders discretion and in line with the school's curriculum plans. 2. The school is aware that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and green list countries may be moved into amber or red. The travel lists may change during a visit and the school will comply with 	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
			Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

		international travel legislation and will have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.				
	M	3. The school will liaise with either its visit provider, or the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to assess the protection available.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. The school will undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits and ensure that any public health advice, such as travel and hygiene, ventilation and isolation requirements, is included as part of that risk assessment.	Y	SLT	1 st September 2021	Low
Wrap Around Activities	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wraparound childcare and other organised activities for children may take place in groups of any number. 2. Providers caring for children: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. under 5 years only should refer to the guidance for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic b. both under 5 years and aged 5 years and over, in mixed groups together, should follow the guidance on actions for out-of-school settings. 3. Where the school premises are hired for use by external wraparound childcare providers, such as after-school or holiday clubs, these organisations will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. consider the relevant government guidance for their sector b. put in place protective measures. 	T	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
			Y	Pleiedes	1 st September 2021	Low

		c. Comply with Trust/school policies, procedures and letting agreements				
Sports Provision	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All sports provision, including competition between settings, should be planned and delivered in line with government guidance. 2. Providers of sports activities will also refer to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. guidance on grassroot sports for public and sport providers, safe provision and facilities, and guidance from Sport England b. advice from organisations such as the Association for Physical Education and the Youth Sport Trust c. guidance from Swim England on school swimming and water safety lessons available at returning to pools guidance documents 	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
Performances, Events and Music	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Singing, wind and brass instrument lessons can be undertaken, following guidance provided by the DCMS at the time of the trip working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): performing arts. 2. If planning an indoor or outdoor face-to-face performance in front of a live audience, the school will also follow the latest advice in the DCMS working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): performing arts. 	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

Implementing social distancing		1. Some measures maybe implemented at the discretion of the school leaders.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Ventilation	M	<p>1. Good ventilation reduces the concentration of the virus in the air, which reduces the risk from airborne transmission. When the school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. These can be achieved by a variety of measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. mechanical ventilation systems – these should be 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. If possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if not, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply b. natural ventilation – opening windows (in cooler weather windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Opening internal 	Y	ALL STAFF	1 st September 2021	Low

doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air

- c. natural ventilation – if necessary external opening doors may also be used (as long as they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) The [Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak](#) and [CIBSE coronavirus \(COVID-19\) advice](#) provides more information.
2. To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, the following will be considered:
- a. opening high level windows in colder weather in preference to low level to reduce draughts
 - b. increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied (for example, between classes, during break and lunch, when a room is unused)
 - c. providing flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing
 - d. rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct draughts
 - e. Heating to be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained particularly in occupied spaces.

	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Hygiene Practice	M	1. The COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance is followed (See Appendix 1)	Y	Premises	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitisers in classrooms and other learning environments	Y	Premises	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. Surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters are cleaned more regularly than normal;	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. All adults and children are told to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly b. clean their hands on arrival at school, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing; c. Posters are displayed throughout the school reminding pupils to wash their hands, e.g. before entering and leaving the school. d. are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nosed. Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it') 	Y	HT/Premises	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	5. Help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands	Y	LSA Staff	1 st September 2021	Low

		independently; Young children are encouraged to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition				
	M	6. Bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day; bins should be lidded to prevent infection transmission	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	7. Additional alcohol-based sanitiser (that contains no less than 70% percent alcohol) is provided for use there is no access to soap and water	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	8. Instructions should be given to everyone that toilet's should be flushed with closed lids.	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	9. Infection control procedures are adhered to as much as possible in accordance with the DfE and PHE's guidance.	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	10. Sufficient amounts of soap (or hand sanitiser where applicable), clean water, paper towels and waste disposal bins are supplied in all toilets and kitchen areas.	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	11. Bar soap is not used, in line with the Infection Control Policy – liquid soap dispensers are installed and used instead.	Y	Premises/CT		Low
	M	12. Pupils do not share cutlery, cups or food.	Y	LTS	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	13. All utensils are thoroughly cleaned before and after use.	Y	12Fifteen	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	14. Alcohol wipes should be used to clean all touch surfaces in communal offices e.g. PC keyboard, mouse, screen, table top, phone etc	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	15. Cleaners are employed by the school (or through an agency) to carry out daily, thorough cleaning that follows national guidance and is	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low

		compliant with the COSHH Policy and the Health and Safety Policy.				
	M	16. The SBM arranges enhanced cleaning to be undertaken where required – advice about enhanced cleaning protocols is sought from the local health team.	Y	HT+PREMISES	1 st September 2021	Low
Promote and Engage in Testing	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. 2. The school may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. 3. Staff are encouraged to undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed. 4. Secondary schools will also retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home. 5. There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period. They will be offered the 2 tests at an ATS at the beginning of the autumn term when they start at their secondary school as a new year 6. Schools may choose, however, to start testing year 6 pupils earlier, including in summer schools, depending on their local circumstances. 	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

		<p>7. Confirmatory PCR tests. Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance and undergo a PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.</p> <p>8. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</p> <p>9. 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, as long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.</p>				
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Spread of infection when dealing with a child needing 1:1 support	H	1. Individual risk assessments produced by the most appropriate person identifying additional hazards due to the behaviours exhibited which might require restraint e.g. spitting, biting etc.	Y	AHT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	2. Appropriate PPE will be provided as identified in the risk assessment and may include disposable aprons, gloves, eye and mask protection	Y	AHT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	3. Reduced timetable / exclusion / inclusion considered if necessary if children are acting in a way that staff are put at risk, in accordance with the school behaviour policy. 4. Walkie talkie or other means of communication available for the member of staff, as appropriate.	Y	AHT	1 st September 2021	Low

		4. A member of SLT is on “duty” and will hold a walkie talkie or other communication available so can be summoned in the event of an issue escalating			1 st September 2021	Low
Ill Health	M	1. Staff are informed of the symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, e.g. a cough, difficulty in breathing and high temperature, and are kept up-to-date with national guidance about the signs, symptoms and transmission of coronavirus.	Y	1 st September	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	2. Any pupil who displays signs of being unwell is immediately referred to the designated first aider/school nurse.	Y	Admin/First Aid	1 st September 2021	Low
		3.			1 st September 2021	Low
	H	4. Where the first aider/school nurse is unavailable, staff act in line with the infection control arrangement and ensure that any unwell pupils are moved to an empty room whilst they wait for their parent to collect them. Staff supervising this should wear appropriate PPE ie apron, gloves and FFP2 mask if there is a risk of sharing bodily fluids.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	5. Pupils displaying symptoms of coronavirus do not come in to contact with other pupils and as few staff as possible, whilst still ensuring the pupil is safe.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	6. The relevant member of staff calls for emergency assistance immediately if the pupil’s symptoms worsen.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	M	7. The parents of an unwell pupil are informed as soon as possible of the situation by a relevant member of staff.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	8. Where contact with a pupil's parents cannot be made, appropriate procedures are followed in accordance with those outlined in governmental guidance and the Infection Control Policy.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	9. Unwell pupils who are waiting to go home are kept in an area where they can be at least two metres away from others.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Medium
	H	10. Areas used by unwell pupils who need to go home are thoroughly cleaned once vacated. PPE as above should be worn	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	11. If unwell pupils are waiting to go home, they are instructed to use different toilets to the rest of the school to minimise the spread of infection (where it is possible to do so?)	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	12. Parents are advised to contact 999 if their child becomes seriously ill or their life is at risk . Policy.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Medium
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Spread of infection	H	1. Spillages of bodily fluids, e.g. respiratory and nasal discharges, are cleaned up immediately in line with the Infection Control Policy and the DFE's Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance (Appendix 1).	Y	Premises/CT	1 st September 2021	Low

	M	2. Pupils are instructed to cough or sneeze into their elbow and use a tissue to cover their mouths where possible, disposing of the tissue in waste disposal units with lids	Y	Teachers	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. Pupils clean their hands after they have coughed or sneezed.	Y	Teachers	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. Instruct everyone that toilet's should be flushed with closed lids		HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	5. Anyone dealing with deliveries should follow the hand washing protocol after dealing with the items.		Admin	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	6. Parents are informed via letter 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.		Admin	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	7. Children who have displayed symptoms of coronavirus must self-isolate for 10 days before returning to school to avoid risks of transmission.		Admin	1 st September 2021	Low
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Managing confirmed cases	M	1. Staff are made aware of the symptoms of coronavirus following the latest NHS information .	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Staff are vigilant and report concerns about a pupil's symptoms to a first aider/school nurse.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	M	3. The school is consistent in its approach to the management of suspected and confirmed cases of coronavirus.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	H	4. If a pupil or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive LFD or PCR test they will follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
					1 st September 2021	Low
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Wellbeing for staff	M	1. Risk assessment, control measures and operational procedures shared with all staff members	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Regular means of communicating with staff to discuss concerns and review shared control measures / operational procedures	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. Staff will be reminded of Education Support	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. At least one SLT member of staff on site every day for staff to share concerns with 5	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	M	5. The risk assessment will be reviewed or where changes are required following feedback from staff – daily, weekly etc or where it is superseded by guidance from the government .	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Communication	M	1. Children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, are told not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. The first aider/school nurse reports immediately to the headteacher about any cases of suspected coronavirus, even if they are unsure;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. The headteacher contacts the Department of Education Schools helpline 0800 04686874 for advice and informs their Director of Education. 4. Headteacher/SBM to contact Director of HR if a staff member has a confirmed case.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	5. Schools keep pupils and parents adequately updated about any changes to infection control procedures as necessary;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	6. Cleaning contractors or staff are briefed on the additional cleaning requirements and agree additional hours to allow for this, as required.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	7. The school communicates with parents via letter/email regarding any updates to school	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

		procedures which are affected by the coronavirus pandemic.				
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Partial School Closure	M	1. The headteacher maintains their plan for pupils' continued education during isolations, partial or full school closure to ensure there is minimal disruption to pupils' learning – this includes their plan to monitor pupils' learning while not in school, which is displayed on the school website.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Y	2. The Behaviour Policy and Staff Code of Conduct are adhered to at all times, even while working remotely.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Y	3. The headteacher ensures all pupils have access to schoolwork and the necessary reading materials at home.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Y	4. The headteacher works with the ICT Lead to ensure that technology used is accessible to all pupils – alternative arrangements are put in place where required.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Y	5. The school manages the use of parents' and pupils' contact details in line with the Data Protection Policy and Data Retention Policy.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Emergencies	M	1. All pupils' emergency contact details are up-to-date, including alternative emergency contact details, where required.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Pupils' parents are contacted as soon as practicable in the event of an emergency.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. Pupils' alternative contacts are called where their primary emergency contact cannot be contacted	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. The school has an up-to-date First Aid Policy in place which outlines the management of medical emergencies – medical emergencies are managed in line with this policy.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	Risk rating prior to action - H/M/L	Recommended controls/ Mitigation and Protective Measures	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action - H/M/L
Transport	M	1. Parents, children and young people are encouraged to walk or cycle to their education setting where possible;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	2. Transport providers should provide a copy of their Covid-19 risk assessment to the school.	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	3. Transport arrangements are organised to cater for any changes to start and finish times;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	4. Transport providers are advised that they do not work if they or a member of their household are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus;	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

	M	5. Transport providers, as far as possible, are advised of the need to follow hygiene rules and try to keep distance from their passengers	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low
	M	6. Revised travel plans are communicated clearly to contractors, local authorities and parents where appropriate (for instance, to agree pick-up and drop-off times).	Y	HT	1 st September 2021	Low

Appendix 1

[Cleaning in non-healthcare settings \(Version19 July 2021\)](#)

This should be read in conjunction with the latest version available [online](#).

Background

The risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection depends on many factors, including:

- the type of surface contaminated
- the amount of virus shed from the individual
- the time the individual spent in the setting
- the time since the individual was last in the setting

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated with COVID-19 when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces and when people spend a lot of time together in the same room.

Keeping your distance, washing your hands regularly, good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues), cleaning surfaces and keeping indoor spaces well ventilated are the most important ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Increased frequency of cleaning of general room surfaces reduces the presence of the virus and the risk of contact.

The infection risk from a COVID-19 contaminated environment decreases over time. It is not yet clear at what point there is no risk from the virus, however, studies suggest that, in non-healthcare settings, the risk of residual infectious virus is likely to be significantly reduced after 48 hours.

In situations where someone has symptoms of COVID-19, it is advised that you store personal waste for 72 hours as an additional precaution.

General principles of cleaning during the COVID-19 pandemic

This section provides general cleaning advice for non-healthcare settings where no one has symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19. For guidance on cleaning where there has been a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19, please refer to the section on [principles of cleaning after a case has left the setting or area](#).

There is also [additional guidance for employers and businesses on working safely during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Cleaning and disinfection

Regular cleaning plays a vital role in limiting the transmission of COVID-19.

Reducing clutter and removing difficult to clean items can make cleaning easier. Increase the frequency of cleaning, using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach, paying attention to all surfaces but especially ones that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, remote controls and electronic devices.

As a minimum, frequently touched surfaces should be wiped down twice a day, and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. Cleaning should be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.

When cleaning surfaces, it is not necessary to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) or clothing over and above what would usually be used.

Laundry

Items should be washed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. There is no additional washing requirement above what would normally be carried out.

Kitchens and communal canteens

It is very unlikely that COVID-19 is transmitted through food. However, as a matter of [good hygiene practice](#), anyone handling food should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before doing so.

Crockery and eating utensils should not be shared. Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

Food business operators should continue to follow the Food Standard Agency's (FSA) [guidance on good hygiene practices in food preparation](#), [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point](#) (HACCP) processes, and preventative practices (pre-requisite programmes (PRPs)).

Bathrooms

Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. Ensure suitable hand washing facilities are available including running water, liquid soap and paper towels or hand driers. Where cloth towels are used, these should be for individual use and laundered in accordance with washing instructions.

Waste

Waste does not need to be segregated unless an individual in the setting shows symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19.

Dispose of routine waste as normal, placing any used cloths or wipes in 'black bag' waste bins. You do not need to put them in an extra bag or store them for a time before throwing them away.

Principles of cleaning after an individual with symptoms of, or confirmed, COVID-19 has left the setting or area

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area after a person with symptoms of COVID-19, or confirmed COVID-19, has left the setting, is disposable gloves and an apron. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where someone unwell has spent the night such as in a hotel room or boarding school dormitory) then additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose may be necessary. The local Public Health England (PHE) [Health Protection Team](#) can advise on this.

Cleaning and disinfection

Public areas where a symptomatic person has passed through and spent minimal time but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids, such as corridors, can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with should be cleaned and disinfected, including all potentially contaminated and frequently touched areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab rails in corridors and stairwells.

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings – think one site, one wipe, in one direction.

Use one of the options below:

- a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av.cl.)

or

- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1,000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants

or

- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses

Avoid mixing cleaning products together as this can create toxic fumes. Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as [outlined in the waste section below](#).

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.

Laundry

Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items. To minimise the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry prior to washing.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

Waste

Personal waste from individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and waste from cleaning of areas where they have been (including PPE, disposable cloths and used tissues):

1. Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full
2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied

3. This should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known

This waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. It should not be placed in communal waste areas until negative test results are known, or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

If the individual tests negative, this can be disposed of immediately with the normal waste.

If COVID-19 is confirmed this waste should be stored for at least 72 hours before disposal with normal waste.

If during an emergency you need to remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. You must:

- keep it separate from your other waste
- arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste

There will be a charge for this service.

Other household waste can be disposed of as normal.

