



Horringer Court Middle School
Schools operating safely - risk assessment
Update 1 March 2022

Trade unions and staff are invited to comment and this is being made public via the school's website. The school recognises that there remain considerable challenges from the covid-19 pandemic. The Department for Education's guidance is at

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101222/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance.pdf)

Staff, parents, pupils, visitors and key contractors working at the school are made aware of the school's control measures and ways of working set out below.

This risk assessment has been updated in the light of the Government's announcements on 'living with covid'. These announcements mean that the following are no longer expected:

- staff and students to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing
- the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test
- fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days
- the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate
- routine contact tracing; contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests
- the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

Control measures

In summary, the following actions continue to be advised:

- if you have stocks of tests in school, to use them to support staff who may be anxious (or families who want to continue testing)
- adults and children who test positive to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at risk group, including if they live in the same household
- the general measures to prevent covid being spread by:
 - a) getting vaccinated
 - b) letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside
 - c) continuing to maximise ventilation in classrooms
 - d) wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high
 - e) staying at home if you are unwell
 - f) taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive – staff and families are requested to inform the school about positive tests
 - g) washing your hands and following advice to ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’
- We encourage all staff and eligible pupils to take up the offer of vaccinations - we do not keep a record of those who have been vaccinated and do not discriminate on the basis of vaccine status. We are supporting the vaccination of 12-15 year olds in schools and encourage parents to take up the recent offer of vaccinations for 5-11 year olds. We appreciate that staff and pupils may require time off to attend vaccination appointments which will be authorised. We acknowledge that on occasion the vaccine can result in side effects which may trigger an absence for which allowances will be made.
- We will continue to use the one way system around the school building
- Public health advice will be sought if there are significant concerns about increases in positive cases or if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with covid, and any recommended additional measures will be implemented.

- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Where a child is absent because of covid they are recorded as:
 - code X (not attending in circumstances related to covid-19)
 - code I (illness) - where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of covid-19
 - for pupils abroad who are unable to return, code X is unlikely to apply - in some specific cases, code Y (unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will apply
- Travel and quarantine - Parents travelling abroad should avoid any travel that may be likely to involved reduced school attendance upon return. Staff travelling abroad during school holiday periods are required to be available for work at the start of the term.
- Remote education – the school is maintaining its capacity to deliver high-quality remote education in the event of school being disrupted; remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils receive in school; where necessary, we expect to work collaboratively with families and put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can successfully access remote education.
- The HR team will assist with individual risk assessments for any staff with particular concerns
- A separate risk assessment will be carried out for each educational visit, extra-curricular provision, breakfast clubs and after school provision

Outbreak management plan

Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a last resort. Neither contacts or siblings of positive cases should under normal circumstances be asked to isolate.

Further precautionary measures will be considered where there is:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to COVID-19 infection
- evidence of severe disease due to COVID-19, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital due to COVID-19

- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students within the affected group

When these thresholds are reached, the school will review and reinforce the hygiene and ventilation measures already have in place

If local authorities or local public health judge that additional action should be taken, they may advise the school to take some or all of measures to limit:

- residential educational visits, open days, transition or taster days
- parental attendance in school
- live performances .

Face coverings in communal areas may temporarily, and exceptionally, be advised.

Remote education will be provided for all pupils if:

- they have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home
- attendance at school has been temporarily restricted

On-site provision will in all cases be retained for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers where they are able to attend.