



Kirkstone House School Transmissible Diseases (including COVID-19, Scarlet Fever and Streptococcus A) Operational Guidance January 2023

Overview

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education. The Government's priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. Therefore, this guidance explains the actions KHS will take to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases in school.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

We will no longer keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that assemblies, clubs and visits will take place, and pupils can mix at break and lunch.

It may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups if there is a local outbreak. However, this decision will take into account the detrimental impact that bubbles have on the delivery of education.

Close contacts and isolation

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, or other transmissible diseases.

If an adult has a positive lateral flow they are recommended to isolate for five days and if it is a pupil or young adult this is three days. Anyone with vomiting or diarrhoea should be off school for 48 hours. We request anyone with a temperature should stay off school until well enough to attend. NHS guidance is that children with scarlet fever can return 24 hours after starting antibiotics or 48 hours after starting antibiotics with cases of impetigo which is caused by the same GAS bacterium.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer required for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, at KHS we will support anyone who wishes to continue wearing a mask.



If we have a substantial increase in the number of positive cases of any infection in school a director of public health might advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms by pupils, staff and visitors.

School uniform

Pupils will be expected to come to school in full uniform every day and change for PE lessons at school. This may be modified if there is an outbreak.

Control measure

At KHS we will continue to

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated, whilst balancing thermal comfort
4. Follow outbreak management process as set out in UKHSA. A scarlet fever outbreak is defined as two confirmed cases attending the same school within ten days of each other. As chicken pox or flu infection can cause a more serious illness combined with Strep A, we would ask anyone to notify us of these illnesses too.

1. Good hygiene

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. Pupils will be encouraged to clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser which is readily available around school.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and tissues are to be placed in lidded bins found in every classroom.

2. Cleaning regimes

Regular cleaning of areas and equipment will continue with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Ventilation of occupied spaces

It is important to ensure that the school it is well ventilated while maintaining a comfortable teaching environment. Natural ventilation will be encouraged by opening windows and internal doors creating a throughput of air.



4. Public health advice on managing Transmissible Diseases

If anyone at school develops symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home. To avoid using public or school transport, a member of their family or household will be asked to collect them.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in the medical room on their own if possible and safe to do. This room is ventilated and will then be fully cleaned after they have left.

Asymptomatic testing

This is no longer required.