



ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE

SENIOR SCHOOL, JUNIOR SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS

SUMMARY OF CONTROL MEASURES IN PLACE FOR MICHAELMAS TERM 2021

TEN STEPS TO MANAGE ONGOING COVID RISK

1. ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Over the summer, staff and secondary age pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. The Senior School will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending school settings. However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

The College will begin testing Senior School pupils before the start of term to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff will undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

The Senior School will retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so it can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

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 7. Schools may choose, however, to start testing year 6 pupils earlier, including in summer schools, depending on their local circumstances.

Pupils and Staff Returning from Overseas

The College will explain the rules to pupils and their parents travelling from overseas before they travel to the UK. All pupils travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice.

Additional guidance has been issued on the quarantine arrangements for boarding school pupils travelling from red-list countries to attend a boarding school in England.

Parents travelling abroad will be reminded of the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

2. CONFIRMATORY PCR TESTS

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

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 pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Additional information on PCR test kits for schools and further education providers is available.

3. MANAGING HIGHER RISK GROUPS

3.1 Managing CEV pupils

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

Further information is available in the guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

The College will determine staff levels required to meet the needs of their pupils.

Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else, but CEV people may wish to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take. Further information can be found in the guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19.

Social distancing measures have now ended but the College will maintain measures to keep CEV staff safe at work. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance on protecting vulnerable workers, including advice for employers and employees on how to talk about reducing risks in the workplace.

We welcome your support in encouraging vaccine take up and enabling staff who are eligible for a vaccination to attend booked vaccine appointments where possible even during term time

3.2 Supporting staff in higher-risk groups

The higher-risk groups include those who:

- are older males
- have a high body mass index (BMI)
- have health conditions such as diabetes
- are from some Black, Asian or minority ethnicity (BAME) backgrounds

There are currently no expectations of additional controls specifically for these groups. However, the College will make sure that existing controls such as adequate ventilation, good hygiene and cleaning, are applied strictly.

The College will support these individuals by:

- ensuring controls are applied stringently
- ensuring line managers discuss their concerns
- explaining the risk management measures put in place to minimise transmission to keep them, and others, safe
- explaining the controls the College will put/already have in place to protect them and other workers

3.3 Accessing precautions for working safely

The College will ensure that all workers, including those in higher-risk groups, are able to access all the protections that are necessary, for example during night shifts, when working remotely or working alone. This will include access to personal protective equipment (PPE) stocks or cleaning materials.

3.4 Supporting CEV workers

During the pandemic, the government has defined some people as clinically extremely vulnerable (previously described as shielded).

These workers are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Since 1 April 2021, the UK government has said that anyone in England who is clinically extremely vulnerable is no longer advised to shield.

From 19 July 2021, social distancing guidance no longer applies in England and the UK government is no longer instructing people to work from home.

The College will meet with any CEV pupils and staff prior to returning to their workplace, to explain the measures being taken to ensure they can work safely.

More information for clinically extremely vulnerable people, covering travel, socialising, educational settings and vaccination, is available from [Public Health England](#).

3.5 Supporting Pregnant workers

Some pregnant workers will be at greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus.

Employers will take this into account in the individual's risk assessment

If the College cannot put the necessary control measures in place, such as adjustments to the job or working from home, the College will suspend the pregnant worker on paid leave. This is in line with normal requirements under regulation 16(3) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

4. MANAGING CONTRACTORS AND VISITORS

The College will ensure that contractors and other visitors are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working through adherence to the Visitor Policy. The College Visitor Policy and procedure will be amended on an ongoing basis to reflect Government advice and current College practice.

As with all other visitors, contractors will have to make a declaration that they are COVID symptom free before entering the site. Visitors entering highly populated areas will be required to wear a face covering.

5. IDENTIFYING POSITIVE CASES AND TRACING CLOSE CONTACTS

Individuals with symptoms of coronavirus will be required to self-isolate.

Close contacts will now be identified by NHS Test and Trace and the College will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

NHS Test and Trace will work with a positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from the school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace when the positive case identifies them as a close contact.

This is likely to be a small number of individuals most at risk due to the nature of the close contact.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

The College will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise the College to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

6. ENSURING GOOD HYGIENE

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

The [e-Bug COVID-19 website](#) contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

7. USING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) APPROPRIATELY

Most staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The College will follow the guidance on the [use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#), which provides more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19.

8. MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE CLEANING REGIMES

The College will continue to maintain an enhanced cleaning regime and follow PHE published guidance on the [cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#).

9. KEEPING OCCUPIED SPACES WELL VENTILATED

When the school is in operation, it will be important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

The College will identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of its risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.

Where available, mechanical ventilation systems will be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible, and will be checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance.

Where possible, systems will be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems will be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply.

Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, the College will ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

Windows will be opened where possible to improve natural ventilation, and internal doors will be opened where possible to assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

The College will follow, where practicable, [Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and [CIBSE COVID-19 advice](#).

10. FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE ON TESTING, SELF-ISOLATION AND MANAGING CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults will be required to 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).

If anyone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, staff will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

If a boarding pupil shows symptoms, they will self-isolate in their bedroom (where possible) so that their usual support can continue.

Staff and pupils with symptoms should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will 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 will 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.

Affected households (including any siblings) will be required to follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Early Years Foundation Stage Arrangements

Our EYFS will follow the DfE guidance 'Actions for the early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic' (August 21).

The whole College risk assessment including guidance on hygiene, cleaning, ventilation, testing and self-isolation also applies to the EYFS, except for the following points.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

- Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme. PHE has advised there are limited public health benefits attached to testing early years children with rapid lateral flow coronavirus (COVID-19) tests. Young children may find the rapid lateral flow testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

In our EYFS staff will continue to support children's learning, development and wellbeing and follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

If children need to self-isolate staff will continue to support the learning of children who do not attend settings including maintaining contact with their key person and peers, and parents and carers will be supported to provide a positive learning environment at home. Should a whole class have to isolate the remote teaching will be conducted via Tapestry and Google Classroom.