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COVID 19 and Social Distancing Safeguarding Policy
June 2020
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COVID 19 And Other Pandemics

In March 2020 all educational establishments as with other organisations were forced to close as not only the UK but the world entered into lockdown in order to protect lives and stop the spread of a new disease, COVID 19. This policy has been put together in response to the unprecedented situation the world has found itself in.

This document aims to highlight what COVID 19 is, safety routines to be followed by children, staff and parents, virtual distance learning when required and social distancing rules to be implemented and followed whilst children are in school.

The safety of our children, staff and parents is the most important aspect to this document .

Background

This guidance will assist staff in addressing COVID-19 in educational settings. The guidance may be updated in line with the changing situation.

What you need to know

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a persistent cough or a high temperature or loss of or change to their usual sense of smell or taste, to avoid spreading infection to others. However, high risk groups should follow the guidance on social distancing.
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home.
- We will clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using appropriate cleaning products.
- We will supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues, or the crook of their arm.
- Posters will be displayed around the school and lessons on general hand hygiene will be presented.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of one or more of the following:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if someone develops symptoms of COVID-19 on site.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of their usual sense of taste or smell in an educational setting they should be sent home and advised to follow the staying at home guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using appropriate cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

For clinical advice at any time, go to 111 Wales (or call 111 if internet access is not available). In an emergency, call 999. Only visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital if no other option is available.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

If there is urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health Wales Health Protection Team who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.

What happens if a teacher or child tests positive for COVID-19

Track and Trace and the local Council will ultimately make the decision as to whether the school remains open. If COVID-19 has been contracted within the school, the assumption is that the school will close for the suggested isolation period which is presently 10 days.

If COVID-19 is contracted outside of school and if there is no risk to the school the individual will self-isolate and the school will remain open. This will follow any advice given by track and trace and the LA.

When an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, they will not be allowed back into school until they have tested negative. This is for the safety of both the staff and pupils.

Limiting the spread of COVID-19 in an educational setting

We will do everything possible to help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by reminding everyone of the public health advice.

We will remind staff, children, pupils, students and families to wash their hands for 20 seconds frequently.

We will frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using appropriate cleaning products. [Posters, leaflets and other materials](#) are available.

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

They are:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include a high temperature or new and continuous cough or loss of or change to smell or taste;
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport, when possible
- Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this.
- Avoid large and small gatherings in public spaces, noting that pubs, restaurants, leisure centres and similar venues are currently shut as infections spread easily in closed spaces where people gather together.
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.

Social Distancing and Safety in School

We are aware that it will be difficult to fully enforce the social distancing rule of 2m, however, all staff will do everything reasonably possible, and where reasonable, will enforce the 2m social distancing rules. We will also be enforcing hand washing and sanitisation throughout the school.

This will be done in the following way:

- Each child will use the same desk each day.
- Each child will be given a tray or desk tidy to keep their own pencil, pen, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. They will not share equipment. The school will provide this equipment.
- Tape will be placed on the floor throughout the school to help with social distancing.

- The school may create a one way system using 2 staircases, one to go up to the first floor and one to come down, or alternatively adopt a bubble system to separate the key stages.
- Posters will be displayed highlighting the 2m rule.
- There will be social distancing signs placed on the floor to help the children follow the social distancing rules.
- There will be hand sanitising stations throughout the school and children should enter the toilets one at a time (where possible. It is recognised that there may be situations arising where more than one child will need to enter the toilet at one time)

- The drop off and collection of children will take place at the front door.
- Parents can initially enter the building to make sure they are happy with the provisions of the school, after this time we will request all parents wait outside to collect their children whilst maintaining social distancing rules.
- We will ask parents to be understanding that they will not be able to enter the school unless they have made an appointment.
- We encourage any parents to raise and address any concerns they have by speaking directly with the school to seek clarification in order to maintain stability.

Virtual Distance Learning

If the schools are forced to go into a lockdown situation the school will revert to the distance learning that it has been following during the initial March – June 2020 lockdown.

For those children that have returned to their countries of origin, the school will continue to provide distance learning. We aim to continue using Zoom but are also looking at alternative platforms such as SKYPE, Google Classrooms and Facetime.

Links to helpful pages

https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-educational-settings-guidance
https://gov.wales/coronavirus-social-distancing-guidance