



# **Infection Control During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**Spetember 2021**

Date for review: September 2022 or  
as required by revised guidance

## Statement of intent

The James Montgomery Academy Trust understands that we face a time of great uncertainty and, as a trust, we are doing all we can to provide clarity and safety for the school community. This appendix to the Health and Safety Policy includes provisions which the school will have due regard for during the coronavirus pandemic. The information in this section is under constant review and is updated to reflect changes to government guidance as it is released.

## Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Coronavirus Act 2020
- PHE (2020) 'COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings'
- PHE's 'COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection'.
- **DfE (2021) School's COVID-19 operational guidance**

## Social distancing measures

The schools in the trust will adhere to the government's social distancing guidelines as much as is reasonably practicable.

To ensure the risk of virus spread for both staff and pupils in school is as low as possible, the following action will be taken:

- Pupils, parents, carers and any visitors will be told not to enter the school building if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.
- Appropriate measures will be taken by each school to ensure the safe arrival and exit for children, staff and parents. This may include staggered arrival times, social distancing measures implemented in school grounds, etc
- The way pupils arrive at school will be reviewed, with a view to reducing any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or other public transport.
- Staff will consider using age and developmentally appropriate ways to encourage children to follow social distancing, handwashing and other guidance when necessary

## Additional hygiene and cleaning measures

All staff and pupils will be:

- Told to frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Encouraged not to touch their faces.
- Pupils who have difficulty washing their hands will be supported by a member of staff.
- Staff will ensure thorough handwashing before and after supporting children who need help with intimate care, going to the toilet or eating.
- Sharing food, drink, utensils and equipment will be avoided as much as possible. Equipment, toys and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently than usual.
- Equipment, including keyboards, tables, chairs, door handles, light switches and bannisters, will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## Prevention

Schools will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, do not attend school. Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days.

We will ensure anyone developing \*symptoms during the school day is sent home, and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Actions in the event of a pupil or staff member displaying symptoms of coronavirus

- If anyone in school becomes unwell with \*a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), **or other ailments associated with variants of the infection** they must be sent home and advised to follow PHE's 'COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection'.
- Staff members who test positive are able to return to school in line with instruction from **NHS test and trace**
- If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a **room/area** where they can be isolated behind a closed door and receive adult supervision, if required. Where possible, a window will be opened for ventilation.
- If a pupil is awaiting collection, the supervising member of staff will wear PPE, including face mask, visor, apron and gloves.
- Where isolation is not possible, the pupil will be moved to an area which is at least two metres from anyone else.
- If the pupil needs to use the toilet whilst waiting to go home, they should use a separate bathroom where possible. This bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before anyone else uses it.
- If a member of staff has helped someone who is unwell with coronavirus symptoms, they will not be sent home unless they develop symptoms themselves.

## Preventing the further spread of infection

- Staff must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds following any contact with someone who is unwell.
- When cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus has been, staff will use disposable gloves and an apron. Staff will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.
- If there is visible contamination to an area, e.g. with bodily fluids, cleaning staff will use additional PPE to protect their eyes, mouth and nose.
- Areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, e.g. corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with bodily fluids, will be cleaned thoroughly with normal cleaning products.
- All surfaces that a symptomatic person has come into contact with will be cleaned and disinfected, including objects which are visibly contaminated and those which are potentially contaminated, e.g. door handles.
- Cleaning staff will be expected to follow the PHE guidance (2020) 'COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings' alongside the protocols and procedures of their company policy.

## Communication with parents

The school will inform parents about the measures being taken and request they provide support with implementation, e.g. by encouraging measures to continue at home.

## Pupils with SEND

The school will work with the LA and parents to decide how best to continue supporting pupils with EHC plans whilst ensuring they stay healthy and safe.

Some pupils with SEND or complex needs may be unable to follow **some Covid secure protocols**. In these circumstances, staff will increase their level of self-protection by minimising close contact (where appropriate), cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and carrying out more frequent handwashing.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Policy review

Infection control and the use of PPE equipment will be monitored through both safeguarding and health and safety audits throughout the year.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the JMAT schools.

This policy will be assessed for its implementation and effectiveness **annually** by the **Trust DSL** and the **Trust Health and Safety Lead**

**Policy reviewed as required by revised guidance from DfE/PHE.**