

## AREAS TO STRESS FOLLOWING UPDATED GUIDANCE JANUARY 2021: TO SUPPORT LIMITED ATTENDANCE AT ALERT LEVEL 4

- There is no evidence the new strain of the virus causes more serious illness in either children or adults and there continues to be strong evidence, to date, that children and younger people (those under 18 years old) are much less susceptible to severe clinical disease than older people.
- Schools do not pose an increased risk to teachers or children.
- Schools must continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance and must continue to follow the school's policy and procedures.
- School is currently open to vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers (if no other childcare is available at home).
- Everybody who can work from home should do so (including school staff).
- Following the reintroduction of shielding, clinically extremely vulnerable staff are advised that they should not attend the workplace. Those living with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable can still attend work. Clinically vulnerable staff can continue to attend school where it is not possible to work from home (keeping a 2m distance from others and minimising time spent with 1m of others).
- Staff who are pregnant should work at home where possible. Pregnant women are not advised to be vaccinated against Covid19. Further guidance is available: Coronavirus: advice for pregnant employees.
- There is a requirement that people stay at home and self-isolate if they:
  - Have symptoms of Covid19, whether they feel unwell or not.
  - Have tested positive, even if asymptomatic.
  - Have been advised by NHS Wales Test Trace Protect to do so.
  - Are household members of a positive case, even if that case is asymptomatic.
  - Are required to self-isolate for travel related reasons.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene in learners and staff.
- Ensuring appropriate ventilation measures. Staff will be instructed how to achieve the most ventilation (e.g. by moving obstructions such as curtains/blinds). Fire doors should remain closed.
- Active engagement with TTP strategy.
- Contact between all individuals should be minimised wherever possible.

Learners, staff and other adults with Covid19 symptoms or who have tested positive in at least the last 10 days must not come into a school or setting.

Anyone developing Covid19 symptoms during the school day must be sent home immediately.

Both of these actions are essential to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of Covid19.

If anyone in school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature or has a loss of/change in their normal sense of taste or smell, the individual must be sent home immediately (a test should be arranged for the individual and the individual/household should self isolate).

- Where staff need to move between groups, they should try to keep a 2m distance from other adults.
- During times when attendance is limited on site, contact should be limited by:
  - Grouping learners together in as small a group as possible.
  - Avoiding contact between separate groups as much as possible (including during break times/when moving around school).
  - Arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks, one metre apart (when possible and appropriate).
  - Staff remaining social distance from learners and other staff as much as possible.
  - Making the most of the space available.
- Enhanced cleaning will still be required, with frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than usual.
- Continued use of PPE (e.g. where there may be droplet transmission/for personal care/during a suspected Covid19 case).
- Continued use of face coverings especially when social distancing cannot be maintained and when in the school building (outside of the classroom). It is noted that most staff choose to use a visor in class and this is encouraged. Learners should not wear face coverings when running around or playing active games. Guidance for removing face coverings and disposing of them must be followed. Visitors to school must wear a face covering (including at drop off/pick up times).
- Pupils should limit the items they bring into school each day. Staff and learners should have their own items (stationery) and they should not be shared. Areas used (e.g. school hall) should be wiped down more frequently (frequently touched areas).
- Schools need to keep a record of anyone who comes in to a contact group (e.g. intervention teams or different staff). This can be recorded simply, in a book recording anyone coming into the class from 'outside.' The current system to record children going to the toilet during lessons times (Key Stage 2) should continue.
- Schools may need to alter the way in which they deploy their staff, and use existing staff more flexibly.
- We need to avoid increases in unnecessary and unmanageable workload burdens.
- The Governing Body and school leaders have regard to staff work-life balance and well-being. Staff will be updated regarding the measures in place and all staff will be involved. It is vitally important that we work together during this time and that we ensure high levels of well-being and reduced levels of anxiety wherever possible.

#### Health & Safety:

Fire safety management plans should be reviewed and checked in line with operational changes.

All fire doors should be operational at all times.

The fire alarm system and emergency lights should be tested and fully operational.

Emergency fire drills should be carried out as normal (following social distancing and other safety measures as appropriate).

Where buildings have been limiting attendance to vulnerable children and children of critical workers or have had reduced occupancy, water system stagnation can occur due to lack of use, increasing the risks of Legionnaires' disease. All usual precautions e.g. running taps should be followed.