

SNMAT Academies COVID-19 Guidance September 2022

In February 2022 the government lifted domestic restrictions in respect to COVID-19.

The virus remains in circulation and continues to mutate. Therefore, to protect our organisation's ability to carry out its core duties, our academies will continue to implement steps to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other viruses.

The most significant risk to our daily operation is staff absence due to ill health. Pupil absence will impact on the individual's outcomes.

We recognise that throughout the day staff and pupils come into close contact with each other both within their own classrooms and across the school. This is an intrinsic part of how our community relates to each other and we wish to preserve this as much as possible, however there may be times when transmission rates peak that it is necessary to implement contingency measures to protect our workforce and pupils.

Therefore, every academy will:

1. Maintain a regime of cleaning that focusses on high traffic areas and touch points.
2. Provide hand sanitizer throughout the building, encouraging its use and regular hand washing.
3. Keep rooms well ventilated.
4. Provide lidded bins for tissues; 'Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.'
5. Ask visitors if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness and if so, restrict their access to the building.
6. Make sure staff and pupils are aware of the current UK symptoms of the virus and encourage early testing (appendix 1).
7. Where members of the academy community test positive they should stay away from the academy until testing negative – this will reduce transmission and minimise staff and pupil absence.
8. Include COVID-19 on pregnancy risk assessments (appendix 2)

Academies will consider:

1. The use of masks in crowded areas, particularly if this involves people not usually part of the school community
2. Risk assessments to support those who are more vulnerable to the illness (appendix 2)
3. Implementing contingency measures to manage/reduce a rise in transmission (appendix 3)

Appendix 1

(from: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms in adults - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-symptoms/) 26.8.2022)

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) in adults can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Appendix 2

SR12- Risk Assessment Record

Appendix 2

Operations/Work Activities covered by this assessment:			
Site Address/Location:		Department/Service/Team:	
Note: A person specific assessment must be carried out for young persons, pregnant women and nursing mothers			

Hazards Considered <i>Step 1 (Clause 3.1)</i>	Who might be harmed and how <i>Step 2 (Clause 3.2)</i>	Existing Control Measures: <i>Step 3 (Clause 3.3)</i>	Risk Rating			Further action Step 3 Consider hierarchy of controls i.e. elimination, substitution, engineering controls, signage/ warning and/or admin controls, (PPE as a last resort)	Actions Step 4 (Clause 3.4)			Risk Rating		
			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating		Who (Name)	When (Date)	Complete (Date)	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating
Consider if any additional hazards are created and control measures are required if this activity is undertaken in non-routine or emergency conditions								Review Date (Step 5) :				
Assessors Signature:		Date:		Authorised By:				Date:				

Potential Severity of Harm	High (e.g. death or paralysis, long term serious ill health)	Medium	High	High
	Medium (an injury requiring further medical assistance or is a RIDDOR incident)	Low	Medium	High
	Low (minor injuries requiring first aid)	Low	Low	Medium
		Low (The event is unlikely to happen)	Medium (It is fairly likely it will happen)	High (It is likely to happen)
		Likelihood of Harm Occurring		

Risk Definitions	
Low	Controls are adequate, no further action required, but ensure controls are monitored and any changes reassessed.
Medium	Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be reduced using the hierarchy of control measures. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time periods. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained and monitored for adequacy.
High	Substantial improvements should be made to reduce the level to an acceptable level. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently with a defined period. Consider suspending or restricting the activity, or applying interim risks controls. Activities in this category must have a written method statement/safe system of work and arrangements must be made to ensure that the controls are maintained and monitored for adequacy.

Appendix 3

Contingency Measures

Academy:	Date:
Contingency Measures introduced due: <i>insert here your rational for measures introduced e.g. number of absences over a period of time</i>	

Measure introduced	Location	Who's responsible	Date implemented	Date removed

The types of measures introduced may include bubbles for classes where there is an increase in cases, safeguarding checks for those not in school, enhanced cleaning ...