



Europa School UK

Thame Lane
Culham, Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DZ
+44 (0)1235 524060
Reception@europaschool.uk
<https://europaschooluk.org>

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Policies and Procedures

COVID-19

Version and Date		Action/Notes
V1	March 2020	For lockdown and Key worker children and vulnerable children
V2	May 2020	For school reopening June 2020
V3	August 2020	For school reopening September
V4	January 2021	For start of Spring Term January 2021
V5	March 2021	For reopening of Schools March 2021
V6	September 2021	For new academic year 2021-22
V7	September 2021	For new academic year 2021-22 UPDATED
V8	December 2021	For return to School Jan 2022 with emergence of Omicron variant
Review Date		Review frequency: Update with latest UK government advice

Information about COVID-19

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new strain of coronavirus that emerged in China in 2019.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is normally between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

The classic symptoms of COVID are a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or loss/change of taste or smell.

Currently many people with COVID experience milder symptoms similar to a common cold - runny nose, headache, fatigue, sneezing and a sore throat.

The symptoms can change with prevailing variants which is currently Delta/Omicron .Other non-specific symptoms might include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, myalgia (sore muscles), sore throat, headache, nasal congestion, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

Most people with COVID-19 have a mild illness, but some experience more severe illness requiring hospital treatment. Older people, those with weakened immune systems, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease are more at risk of severe illness. Severe illness is very rare in children.

If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

See further information on the Public Health England Blog and the NHS UK website.

How COVID-19 is spread

From what we know about other coronaviruses, the spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (termed respiratory secretions) containing the virus and Aerosol produced by respiration are ways for transmission.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

- Droplets and aerosol may be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or could be inhaled into the lungs
- It is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching

their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching a doorknob or shaking hands then touching their own face).

There are now many variants of COVID-19 which are of concerns, the delta and Omicron variant being the most prevalent in the UK in December 2021

Preventing the spread of infection

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

Minimising the risk of contact with infected cases:

- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- maintaining physical distancing
- minimising contact between groups or 'bubbles'

Minimising the risk of virus transmission

- Effective ventilation of classrooms and shared spaces
- washing hands often with soap and water, or $\geq 60\%$ alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport or touching frequently touched 'public' surfaces.
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after staff breaks
 - after coming in from the garden
 - after coming in from break times
 - after participating in group physical activities such as PE lessons
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin - "" (see also <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>)
- avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Europa School UK will use PPE for intimate bodily contact such as in First aid, and for supervision staff at mealtimes.
- The school has a face covering policy for use by site users.
- Users of face covering will be reminded to wash/sanitise hands before putting on a mask and removing the mask. Users of reusable masks are asked to bring in a plastic zip-lock bag with their name on for safe storage. Special bins will be available for disposal on one time use masks. (see guidance video on use of face mask https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk)

- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces – this will be done at lunchtime and after school

Ventilation

All staff are aware of the importance of keeping indoor spaces well ventilated.

- external windows will be opened as much as possible.
- children will be encouraged to remain outside during break-times and discouraged from congregating indoors in congested areas.
- between lessons rooms will be additionally ventilated by opening windows and doors.

Cleaning Routines:

Daily cleaning routines and high standards of good hygiene are currently in place.

- There will be an additional cleaning of hard surfaces in the canteen between sittings.
- All bins will be emptied daily.
- All toilet areas will be cleaned during the school day and after school
- Hygiene packs are available from the main reception - these include cleaning product and pacers, sanitiser, screen and computer cleaner, extra face masks, gloves, tissues

Hand Washing Routines:

To ensure the staff, children, parents and visitors are washing their hands in line with the current guidelines the following will be put in place:

- Parents will be reminded to reinforce good hand hygiene with their children
- On arrival at school, all adults will wash their hands
- Staff should wash their own hands before supporting a child to wash theirs.
- During the day children and staff will wash their hands after going to the toilet, before meals or snacks, and when arriving back from recreation/exercise.
- Staff will use the Hand Washing Song for KS1 students to encourage the children to wash their hands with soap and water, and for at least twenty seconds.
- Children's will be guided to the visuals on the wall to aid good handwashing skills
- Staff must wash their hands before preparing or serving food or wearing gloves.
- Staff will reinforce hand hygiene before and after putting on masks where these are required.

Hygiene Guidance

- Posters/messages on handwashing should be displayed across the school in lobby and toilet areas

- Staff will continue to focus on hygiene education with all children
- extra washbasins had been added around the school as well as sanitiser stations and hygiene packs in each classroom.

COVID Mass Testing

Following UK Government guidelines regarding mass testing of secondary students and staff, Europa School UK set up an on-site testing facility using lateral flow testing. The facility will be used to test secondary students twice in the first two weeks at the start of academic year 2021-22 and once at the start of term in January 2022. A detailed testing procedure and risk assessment to cover the mass testing is available on the school website.

The Secondary students are also provided with home test kits for subsequent bi-weekly weekly testing.

All staff site users are given home test kits for bi-weekly testing.

Annex – Guidance for education & childcare settings on managing COVID-19 cases from January 2022

Guidance for schools

[guidance on children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access school or education settings](#)

[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.](#)

[COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings.](#)

Well-being and Behaviour expectations

The school has an important role to play in creating and supporting high expectations of behaviour and routines, which will need to be reinforced following the return to the school in January 2021.

Early intervention to identify and provide effective support will be crucial. The school's role is summarised:

Prevention: creating a safe and calm environment where problems are less likely and pupils can be helped and supported to re-learn routines and behaviour expectations and to recover resilience in managing a return to a class situation. The class teachers will renew the emphasis on good hygiene which was already well established before the lockdown as well as introducing pupils to new routines required for the purpose of responding to COVID-19.

Identification: recognising emerging issues early on and engaging with parents via remote communication on any routines which might need to be re-established at home.

Early support: helping children to adjust to the classroom environment with support from teaching assistants, DSL, SENCO team

Access to wider support: external agencies

Feelings of Loss/Bereavement

Some children may restart school scarred in some way by illness or loss in their close or wider families. Home school communication is vital in these situations to understand the context and to support each child individually. The school bereavement policy contains guidance and many links to support organisations.

Behaviour Policy

The school has a well-established behaviour policy in place which is based on restorative practice alongside sanctions as required.

Any behavioural concerns which are disruptive to the class will be dealt with sensitively in the current context of the difficulties which may be experienced in the reintegration to school. Supporting those who are experiencing mental health issues following the long first lockdown period is central in the school's strategies.

The school's daily notice will give information regarding the senior leader on duty each day so that any backup support can be obtained quickly including withdrawing the pupil from class with supervision.

Individual risk assessments will be written by the Senior Leadership Team with support from class teachers, to plan appropriate behaviour interventions for individual students when necessary.