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SEPTEMBER 2021 FAQs

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What arrangements are in place for mitigating against the risk of transmission of Covid-19 from September 2021?</p>	<p>The Trust and each academy have reviewed its Risk Assessment in advance of our return in September and in response to the latest Government Guidance which can be found here. A copy of the Academy Risk Assessment can be found on the Academy website at www.horburyprimary.accordmat.org/covid-19-update/.</p> <p>The Academy will continue to place a significant focus on the health and safety of pupils, students and staff whilst on the Academy site. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a requirement that pupils/students/staff who are ill with coronavirus symptoms stay at home and report their absence to the Academy in the usual way; • robust hand and respiratory hygiene; • enhanced cleaning arrangements; • active engagement with NHS Test and Trace as and when required; • the implementation of our Outbreak Management Plan as and when required. <p>The Academy will continue to operate enhanced cleaning regimes including cleaning of high traffic areas such as toilets, social spaces, and handrails throughout the day. Each classroom will have additional cleaning materials such as wipes and hand sanitiser for use as necessary. All staff have been trained on hygiene awareness.</p> <p>The Academy will continue to ensure there is increased ventilation within the academy environment whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature as far as is reasonably possible.</p> <p>The Academy will continue to promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach in terms of respiratory hygiene.</p>
<p>Does the Academy have an Outbreak Management Plan?</p>	<p>Yes, the Trust has an Outbreak Management Plan, a copy of which can be found on the Academy website at www.horburyprimary.accordmat.org/covid-19-update/.</p> <p>All schools have been advised to have contingency plans in place for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) or responding to extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community; or • to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS. <p>Contingency plans (Outbreak Management Plans) will be considered, when whichever of these thresholds is reached first with advice and guidance from the Local Authority and/or Public Health England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or • 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period. <p>Should any aspect of the Academy’s Outbreak Management Plan be initiated staff, students, pupils and parents/carers will be informed.</p>
What happens if there is an outbreak in the Academy?	Please be assured that we will do all we can to keep the Academy open for as many pupils/students as we possibly can and that we will continue to follow DfE and Public Health Guidance. In the event of increased numbers of confirmed cases of Covid, bubbles may be temporarily re-established, and increased restrictions may be applied until the outbreak has abated. The Academy will communicate these changes to you clearly and regularly if and when this applies.
How will pupils, students and staff socially distance?	This is no longer a requirement to socially distance although we will continue to encourage pupils, students and staff members to be aware of their own, and others, personal space.
Do pupils, students, parents, carers and visitors coming to the Academy have to wear a face mask?	<p>The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don’t normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school.</p> <p>DfE Guidance states face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, there may be occasions when the academy has to temporarily reintroduce the wearing of face masks by pupils, students, staff and visitors in communal areas or in classrooms. Communications would be issued to confirm if this was the case as part of the Academy’s Outbreak Management Plan.</p>



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<p>Can pupils, students, parents, carers and visitors coming to the Academy still wear a face mask if they choose to do so?</p>	<p>Yes. Anyone may choose to wear a face mask at their own discretion in and around the Academy.</p>
<p>What is the procedure if a member of staff/pupil/student falls ill with Covid-19 symptoms either at home or on-site?</p>	<p>If a member of staff/pupil/student develops Covid-19 symptoms at home, they must not come into the Academy and they must report their absence in the usual way.</p> <p>If a member of staff develops Covid-19 symptoms whilst on-site, they must follow the Academy protocols to self-isolate, arrange cover and go home.</p> <p>If a student/pupil develops Covid-19 symptoms whilst on-site, then the Academy protocols to arrange for the student/pupil to be sent home safely will be followed.</p> <p>In the event that anyone displays any of the main coronavirus symptoms, they must self-isolate and seek a PCR test. This remains the most important control. The main coronavirus symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature; • a new, continuous cough; or • a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste. <p>In all the above scenarios the individual will need to arrange to get a PCR test as soon as possible, stay at home and follow the national guidance when to self-isolate and what to do.</p> <p>The individual must inform the Academy of their PCR test result once it is known.</p>
<p>What is the procedure if a member of staff/pupil/student tests positive following a PCR test?</p>	<p>The staff member/pupil/student will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Contact tracing is completed by NHS Test and Trace and no longer facilitated by the academy for pupils/students. However, the Academy may be contacted by Test and Trace to support with contact tracing.</p> <p>The staff member/pupil/student will also need to confirm their positive result to their academy and confirm what their expected return date is i.e., the end of their self-isolation period.</p>



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<p>What is the procedure is a member of staff/pupil/student is contacted by Test and Trace and told they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive?</p>	<p>Close contact guidance has changed from 16 August 2021.</p> <p>Close contacts will be required to self-isolate for 10 days following the last contact with the person who has tested positive unless they fall into any of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are fully vaccinated; • They are under the age of 18 years and six months; • They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons; or • Are taking part in or have taken part in an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial. <p>Anyone in the above categories contacted by NHS Test and Trace, will be advised to take a PCR test but will not need to isolate whilst awaiting the PCR result.</p> <p>If the PCR test is positive, the individual will need to follow the isolation guidance and inform the academy.</p> <p>If the PCR test is negative, the individual will be expected to attend their academy as normal.</p> <p>We would encourage increased LFD testing following close contact with someone who has tested positive if you are not required to isolate. By working together, this helps keep our academies and our communities as safe as possible.</p>
<p>If a parent/carer tests positive can their child attend the Academy?</p>	<p>As above, the guidance around close contacts has changed and therefore children in the same household as a positive case can attend the academy. Adults and children over the age of 5 will be advised to take a PCR test if they are a close contact and/or live in the same household as someone who has tested positive. Children under the age of 5 will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is within their household.</p>
<p>Will the Academy be asking whole classes or year group 'bubbles' to go home and isolate if there is a positive case in school?</p>	<p>No. The Academy will no longer be notifying those who have had close contact with the pupils / members of staff as the academy is not required to contact trace in the same way as last academic year. The academy will support NHS Test and Trace with contact tracing individuals if the Academy is contacted by NHS.</p>



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<p>If a member of staff/student/pupil is self-isolating because of close contact with a case outside of their household as they do not fit in any of the isolation exemption categories, can other members of their household still attend the academy/work?</p>	<p>Yes. Only 'contacts of contacts' are required to self-isolate if they do not fit in to any of the isolation exemption categories.</p>
<p>Will LFD tests at home continue to be required?</p>	<p>Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools and in the community. All secondary school pupils will be offered 2 on-site lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart, prior to their return to lessons in the autumn term. We recommend that all members of staff, secondary pupils and students continue to test twice weekly at home. Home testing kits will continue to be available from the academy. The DfE have confirmed that home testing will be reviewed at the end of September.</p>
<p>What happens if a member of staff, student, or pupil tests positive on a LFD test?</p>	<p>The member of staff, student or pupil will be required to take a confirmatory PCR test and should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.</p> <p>The PCR test can be arranged via this link get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</p> <p>If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow test result and the pupil/student or member of staff can return to the Academy, as long as the individual doesn't have any COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
<p>If a child is isolating, will they be able to access remote learning if they are well enough to do so?</p>	<p>Yes, the Academy will make arrangements to ensure the pupil/student is not disadvantaged in terms of missed lessons and learning.</p>
<p>If a parent has returned from abroad and needs to quarantine, can their child attend the Academy?</p>	<p>Only the person who has travelled needs to quarantine. The people they live with do not need to self-isolate, and children can attend school as normal unless they develop any coronavirus symptoms.</p>



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<p>Can parents/carers attend the Academy to speak to staff?</p>	<p>Parents/carers are encouraged to phone and email the academy in the first instance using the usual Academy contact points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email: admin@horburyprimary.accordmat.org • Telephone: (01924) 263 224 <p>Face to face meetings between staff, parents/carers and third-party visitors may resume from September where necessary. However, some activities may still continue to be facilitated remotely where this is determined to be a more effective, efficient and practical means.</p>
<p>What are the arrangements for individuals designated a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)?</p>	<p>All CEV children and young people should attend the Academy unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.</p> <p>The Government now advise clinically extremely vulnerable people, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else. The latest guidance can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19.</p>
<p>Can you refuse to admit my child to school if they have symptoms?</p>	<p>In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the academy, given the potential risk to others. If you insist that your child should attend, we can take the decision to refuse your child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision would be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.</p>
<p>Will staff, parents/carers be informed when there is a positive case in the Academy as was previously the case?</p>	<p>Whilst we may not communicate every single case by letter as we have done in the past, we will continue to be open and transparent about coronavirus transmission and where applicable our response to any advice and guidance from the Local Authority and/or Public Health Teams.</p>