



George Stephenson
High School

COVID-19 Risk Assessment Summary Statement: 8th March 2021

The Department for Education published guidance on the 22nd of February 2021 to assist schools in their planning to safely re-open to all year groups from 8th March 2021. This guidance produces additional guidance to schools to review their active Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

George Stephenson High School is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our parents, students, staff, visitors, and contractors. Throughout the pandemic we have worked closely with key stakeholders always ensuring adherence to governmental guidance in risk assessing our premises and activities to develop and embed control measures and systems of work that minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19).

Our March 2021 risk assessment is in its third phase, following the Partial Reopening in June 2020 and the Full Reopening of September 2020. School Risk Assessment is a live and active document that is reviewed and updated continually as guidance and instructions becomes available from Government and/or Local Authority.

This Summary Statement informs the key messages and focuses of our COVID-19 risk assessment and demonstrates our commitment to provide a safe environment for the education of our students and a workplace for our staff who are working in, and will be returning to, their normal work setting.

Our risk assessment follows the advice and guidance set out by North Tyneside Council (Local Authority) in conjunction with the document "Schools Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operational Guidance February 2021. Identifiable key topics:

1. Governance, Management, and communication
2. Contracting and Transmitting COVID-19
3. Effective Infection Protection and Control
4. Premises
5. Testing

COVID-19 Risk Assessment is discussed and reviewed termly at the Finance, Premises and Health & Safety Committee. We have developed our risk assessment in consultation with key stakeholders within the school, including our Governing Body, our staff and our trade union representatives. The risk assessment is a 'live' document which continues to be reviewed on a regular basis following changes in guidance and taking on board feedback from staff, students, parents and visitors.

We appreciate that some of our parents and carers may have concerns about their children returning to school, but we would like to reassure you that the school have acted on professional advice; we have consulted with relevant bodies; and we have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the environment is as safe as possible.

Summary of Results

Control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Asymptomatic Testing Centre for all year groups (three times in school and twice a week at home following these three tests)
- Twice a week staff testing (home testing only)
- Face masks in classrooms for the period of 8th March to 26th March (**initial trial**)
- Engagement with the NHS Test and Trace Program
- Implementation of an effective infection control program which includes:
 - Regular handwashing
 - Cleaning/sanitising stations at key areas within the school
 - An increased cleaning regime for regular touch points and resources used during teaching activities
 - Immediate response to individuals showing COVID-19 related symptoms
- Social distancing for staff and pupils who can follow social distancing requirements
- Adaptions to classrooms including removal of furniture and changing of desks to prevent face to face or side on contact
- Signage to remind all staff, pupils and visitors of key COVID-19 control measures that are operating on site
- Review of our emergency response procedures including evacuation and local outbreak
- Increased support from a wellbeing perspective for staff and pupils
- Revised visitor access arrangements to minimise the routes of access to the school site
- Review of ventilation within the school to ensure there is a constant flow of outside air circulating
- Sharing of measures with key stakeholders including site neighbours and contractors (including dedicated school transport) to ensure consistent adherence to the school's risk control measures
- Staggered break and lunch times in order to reduce pressure on social spaces and keep year group bubbles apart.
- Separate social areas, so that where students from different year group bubbles are on break or lunch at the same time, they are kept separate from one another.
- Some limited staggering of start and finish times to reduce pressure on entrances and exits.
- There will be a one-way system on corridors and stairwells will be one way too – either up or down only.
- Visual reminders around the school site
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Hand sanitisers in every classroom
- Regular hand washing regimes and outdoor wash basins at different points around the school
- A briefing for all staff and students at the beginning of the year and regular reminders
- Robust procedures should a child or member of staff display symptoms of coronavirus
- Students will face forward or side by side with the teacher at the front of the class
- Windows will be open for increased ventilation
- No assemblies or large gatherings
- Outdoor sports where possible
- More regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces - touchpoints will be cleaned throughout the day and toilets.
- We will ensure that, wherever possible, students use the outdoor routes around the building to minimise passing other students in corridors.
- We will be advising staff and students to maintain social distance at all times in the classroom and all we will seat pupils side by side and facing forwards and we will introduce seating plans in place to minimise students mixing within different classrooms and to make it easier to engage

with NHS Test and Trace process.

- Students and staff are to wear face coverings **when moving around indoors** particularly in corridors and other indoor communal areas such as entrance hallways and exits and other areas of the schools where there may be a gathering or mixing of cohorts of pupils and where social distancing is more difficult.
- Students and staff are therefore required to wear face coverings in corridors as they go to registration, move between lessons, as they move to and from break and lunch and as they leave the school at the end of the day.

We feel that the control measures implemented are sensible and proportionate to reduce the risk to the lowest practicable level however they will be regularly reviewed at the end of every half-term and if we experience a coronavirus case.

We believe that the measures we have put in place strike an appropriate balance between providing the best possible educational experience for our students whilst minimising any potential spread of the virus.

We will advise staff and students to maintain social distance at all times in the classroom and all we will seat pupils side by side and facing forwards. We will give frequent reminders of robust hand and respiratory hygiene. There will be hand sanitisers in every classroom, indeed all classrooms have a hygiene tray with staff can use themselves including a sanitiser spray bottle for teachers to use and spray as the students enter the classroom. Internal corridors have sanitisers too. We will introduce seating plans in place to minimise students mixing within different classrooms and to make it easier to engage with NHS Test and Trace process. Windows will be open for increased ventilation.

George Stephenson High School continue to work closely with the Local Authority and it's partners to ensure we act on all advice and guidance as it becomes available in order to provide the safest possible environment for everyone within our school. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move forward through this challenging period.

Official Guidance

Coronavirus what you need to know <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) Operational Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Actions for schools during the coronavirus **outbreak**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Education and Childcare <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

AfPE Guidance for PE <https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/wp-content/uploads/afPE-Covid-19-FAQs-February-2021.pdf>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): grassroots sports guidance for safe provision including team sport, contact combat sport and organised sport events <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-safe-provision-including-team-sport-contact-combat-sport-and-organised-sport-events>

HSE Guidance on Ventilation <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation.htm>

Safer travel guidance for passengers <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Getting Tested <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Information for the public: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Blog and frequently asked questions:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/category/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Catch it Bin it Kill it poster <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>

NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Clinically vulnerable people <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>

Local Public Health Protection Team <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

Travel corridors <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors#countries-territories-and-regions-on-the-travel-corridor-list>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): red list travel ban countries

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19#travel-bans-to-the-uk---banned-countries>

Local restrictions and Tiers <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

The coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

Face coverings in education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Guidance and advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) and pregnancy from the Royal College of Gynaecologists. <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees>

COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-women-of-childbearing-age-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding>

Further guidance on RIDDOR reporting of COVID-9

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/riddor/riddor-reporting-further-guidance.htm>

COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Guidance for [food businesses on coronavirus](#)