


# Quest Academy

## COVID-19: outbreak management plan

Written by:	Victoria Scrannage SBM	Date: September 21	Version: 1.4
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Approved by:	Laura Thackaberry, Principal		
Signed:		Date: 04/03/2024	

### Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Testing .....	2
3. Face coverings .....	2
4. Shielding .....	3
5. Other measures .....	3
6. Attendance restrictions .....	3

## **1. Introduction**

This plan is based on the [emergency planning and response for education, childcare and children's social care settings](#) of COVID-19, published by the Department for Education (DfE).

We will only implement some, or all, of the measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our local authority (LA), Director of Public Health (DsPH), Public Health England (PHE) health protection team or the national government.

It may be necessary to implement these measures in the following circumstances:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the academy
- If Covid-19 infection rates in the community are extremely high and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- As part of a package of measures responding to a 'variant of concern' (VoC)

## **2. Testing**

If recommended, we will use home testing by learners and staff. If it is advised that we reintroduce an asymptomatic testing site (ATS) at our academy, we will consult with the director of public health (DsPH) to discuss any further support we need to do this.

If we reintroduce on-site asymptomatic testing:

- All staff and learners will be asked to take an LFD test (suitable to current strain, concern or practice) twice weekly (or more frequently if so directed)
- The testing station will be based in the Science room and will only be used for this purpose at testing times and will be thoroughly cleaned after a testing session has ended
- Any visitors to the academy will only be allowed to enter the building if they have either taken an LFD test within 24 hours of arriving or if they are willing to take a test onsite and await the results before conducting their visit and entering the main body of the academy

## **3. Face coverings and PPE**

If recommended, learners, staff and visitors who are not exempt\* from wearing a face covering:

- Will be asked to keep on or put on a face covering when arriving at the academy and moving around indoors in places where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in communal areas – the main corridor, staff room and hall at staff briefing

**And/or:**

- Will be asked to wear a face covering in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained or a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity

PPE is available to all staff and is stored in the Medical Room. If there is a positive case in the academy then PPE is to be worn by staff members waiting with learners until collection.

\*If guidance around exemptions changes or new law is introduced in this regard this will be reviewed at such a time.

#### **4. Shielding**

We will adhere to national guidance on the reintroduction of shielding, which would apply to those on the [shielded patient list \(SPL\)](#).

We will speak to individuals required to shield about additional protective measures in the academy or arrangements for home working or learning.

#### **5. Other measures**

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Transition or taster days
- Parents/carers coming into the academy
- Live performances
- Visitors coming into the academy
- Increase cleaning frequency and product efficacy to meet any new standards

We will however, then:

- Review our on-site provision to off-set a decrease in off site visits
- Explore opportunities to increase physical activity levels in the academy day for staff and learners
- Revert to virtual means of holding learner centre meetings such as annual reviews (AR)
- Explore streaming events, performances or ceremonies, if there is a prolonged impact
- Add opportunities to invite external visitors or providers into the academy 'virtually'

#### **6. Attendance restrictions**

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

##### **6.1 Eligibility to remain at Quest**

In the first instance, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable learners (risk rated by the Safeguarding Team)
- Learners of critical and key workers
- Year 10 and 11 learners

- Any other learners due to take external exams this academic year

If further restrictions are recommended, we will **only** stay open for:

- Vulnerable learners
- Learners of critical and key workers

## **6.2 Education and support for learners at home**

- All learners are assigned their own laptop that they are able to use whilst working at home
- All other learners will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education. This will be delivered using Microsoft Teams and our remote learning page on the website will have details of what work is required <https://www.thequestacademy.org/homelearning>
- We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that learners would receive, as outlined in our Home Learning Contingency Plan
- The academy will continue to provide meals, vouchers or lunch parcels for learners eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines
- If learners eligible for free school meals are onsite then we will provide them with a school dinner. If learners are remote learning at home and/or isolating, we will provide a food parcel
- We will additionally ensure that remote learners have a weekly virtual check-in or in person check-in from a trusted adult or member of the pastoral team, related to their wellbeing and safety at least every ten days and / or based on our knowledge of the learner and level of support required
- Our remote education offer is personalised and we consider family's preference for the type of work and how this is sent home. Last half term we did not use our website and tutors sent work home via e-mail

## **6.3 Safe staffing levels**

- Where outbreaks in the area or region impact on the levels of staff, but not necessitate learners to isolate, we will consider how we open safely and make provision
- Where possible we will avoid asking learners to stay at home, but where staffing levels alone make this necessary we will endeavour to rotate available staff to groups so that they have the least possible amount of time out of school e.g. preferring to ask groups to stay at home for 2 days, then another group for 2 days etc. rather than isolate a group for 10 days so they miss out on much more

## **6.4 Safeguarding**

- We will review our Safeguarding Policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective. This will be available on the academy website <https://www.thequestacademy.org/policies>
- Every learner will be individually rated on the academy's risk register, considering any known vulnerabilities (e.g. individual special needs, financial difficulties etc.) and DSLs will review this weekly in their meeting
- Learners rates in the higher risk bracket will have in person checks at least every 10 days, when at home

- We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible. To reduce the likelihood of not having a DSL on site we have increased the number of DSLs.

In the first instance please contact Laura Thackaberry, Principal on 07932 909754 or via [laura.thackaberry@macintyreacademies.org](mailto:laura.thackaberry@macintyreacademies.org) if you are concerned about a child in our academy. If Laura is unavailable please try and contact the deputy DSL or one of the Safeguarding Team:

Name	Job Title	Email	Telephone Number
Tyla Owen	Deputy Principal Deputy DSL	<a href="mailto:tyla.owen@macintyreacademies.org">tyla.owen@macintyreacademies.org</a>	07377 990795
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