

Health and Safety Bulletin 2021 No. 13

Updates to the Coronavirus Risk Assessment 26/03/21, pregnant staff over 28 weeks gestation, PCR vs LFD testing, data retention, Test and Trace over Easter, lettings for organised sports.

Introduction.

Following changes to shielding advice from 1st April 2021, updates to data protection guidance and changes to the lockdown guidance from 29th March the risk assessment version 5.02 has been updated. Please find attached a control document listing the updates to the Covid 19 Risk Assessment Version 5.02, and the latest version of the risk assessment (V 5.03).

ANY CHANGES TO THE RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.

Sample Covid 19 Risk Assessment for Schools from 8th March 2021 is now Version 5.03.

General Issues to Consider.

1. Pregnant staff – at present the government have not changed their guidance for pregnant staff over 28 weeks gestation. Therefore, at this current time, pregnant staff over 28 weeks (even where they do not have any underlying health conditions) are still considered to be at higher risk and they should work from home unless strict social distancing can be adhered to in their role. This has been the case since November 2020 and LCC's stance is that this will be in place until there is any new / or updated government guidance. Such staff can request to come in in a non socially distanced role if they wish to for other health reasons e.g mental health but this would need GP / medical advice and OH input. The guidance on pregnant employees was also updated recently by Govt : [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for pregnant employees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

2. PCR vs LFD tests - a number of schools have contacted us regarding parents taking pupils who are symptomatic to get a test and then having a LFD test and not a PCR test. We have checked with Health Protection and can confirm **symptomatic** persons **must** have a PCR test and a LFD test is not sufficient.

As many of the test sites are open for different purposes at different times of the day e.g PCR testing in the morning and LFD test collection in the afternoon it may be that parents / carers are not aware of this and have arrived at the wrong time. We recommend you ask parents / carers to make it clear when they are booking tests or arriving at a test centre that they need a symptomatic PCR test and not a LFD test.

3. LFD testing and Test and Trace over the Easter Break – The government have advised that staff and students taking part in the home LFD testing programme should continue to do so over the Easter break and there will be a need to carry out test and trace for asymptomatic and symptomatic persons who test positive in the first few days of the Easter break.

Contact tracing over the Easter holidays

Schools and further education providers continue to play an important role in contact tracing and the national effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays and would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Asking establishments to provide contact tracing support is a key part of the test and trace process, as schools and further education providers hold the data about close contacts

and pupil contact details. We will continue to keep these arrangements under review and will continue to try to reduce the burden on staff.

We need to ask schools and further education providers to continue with contact tracing over Easter, similar to the arrangements over Christmas.

Staff, students, parents and carers only need to inform the school or further education provider of a positive case where they developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in their education setting. You are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in their education setting.

Where pupils, students or staff test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in an education setting, you are not required to take any action. Staff, students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. Staff do not need to be available for contact tracing duties beyond the first 6 days of the Easter holidays, at which point all positive cases should be dealt with through NHS Test and Trace.

Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email).

Where pupils or students need to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case during the holidays, settings do not need to be informed about this until the first day of the Summer term.

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service will remain open over the Easter holidays to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline opening hours over the Easter holidays

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline will be open every day over the Easter holidays to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care. Over the bank holiday weekend (Friday 2 April to Monday 5 April), lines will be open from 10am to 4pm.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Our usual opening hours will resume on Tuesday 6 April.

Support

- The Schools' Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team will be available over the Easter break weekdays for advice (except for 2nd and 5th April 2021). If you need to speak to someone please call 0113 3788298 or email educ.hs@leeds.gov.uk and include a number where you can be contacted.
- To save having to do paperwork over the break, you do not need to complete and return the PCIF 01 form until Monday 19th April when you return to school, although you can return them earlier if you wish.

4. Data retention of LFD records – since last weeks bulletin the privacy statement and guidance on the schools portals for the LFD testing programme has been changed so the guidance is now that :

The test kit log should be kept for no longer than five days after the test kit is provided and the test results register should be kept for a month after the last entry. The risk assessment has been amended to reflect this.

5. Lettings for organised sports clubs - from 29th March 2021 'organised sports' can take place outside so schools can re-commence lettings to such groups . 'Organised' sport, is one which is formally organised by a qualified instructor, club, national governing body, company or charity and follows sport-specific guidance. If the sport is not organised by one of these groups (for example, some friends having a kickabout) or the sport's NGB guidance is not being followed (for example, a football club ignoring the FA's guidance), this is considered to be informal or self-organised sport.

Taking part in organised sport sometimes means that other restrictions such as legal gathering limits don't apply when taking part. This is because the organising body has considered the risks and set out ways to mitigate them so people can participate safely.

Informal or self-organised sport is not covered by any exemptions, and can only take place within the legal gathering limits which otherwise apply to social contact: in groups of up to 6 people, or 2 households including bubbles.

All organised sports providers should undertake a risk assessment for their sport at grassroots level and publish guidance on how to participate safely. In addition, team sports and contact combat sports will need to have their action plans approved by the government before they can operate. They must follow the processes set out below in the team sport framework and the contact combat sport framework.

The control measures they will be required to follow include :

- **Limiting the time spent congregating at a venue before and after sporting activity.** This could involve having strict meeting times or staggering start times, and advising participants to arrive in kit and ready to warm-up.
- **Minimising use of changing rooms and shower facilities.** From 29th March, outdoor sport facilities can reopen but changing rooms should not be used unless in an emergency situation or by people with disabilities. Toilet facilities can be accessed. Participants must adhere to gathering limits while indoors, and maintain social distancing wherever possible. You should encourage participants to avoid or minimise use where possible (e.g. by arriving in kit and showering at home) and to minimise the time they spend in the changing area. Team talks/briefings and other gatherings should not take place in changing rooms under any circumstances.

Schools will need to discuss this and the risk assessment with sports providers before lettings take place.

Detailed guidance can be found in : [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): grassroots sports guidance for safe provision including team sport, contact combat sport and organised sport events - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-safe-provision-including-team-sport-contact-combat-sport-and-organised-sport-events)

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Circulation - All Schools.