



the  
**Deaf  
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# Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan

The Deaf Academy  
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Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education, a company limited by guarantee Registered office: 1  
Douglas Avenue, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 2AU Company registration no. 6585703 | Registered charity  
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## 1. Introduction

This plan is based on the [contingency framework for managing local outbreaks](#) of COVID-19 and the [schools operational guidance](#), provided 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), directors 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, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within the school. Actions will be considered when either of the following thresholds are met:
  - There are 5 positive cases amongst pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely within a 10-day period
  - 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period
- 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)
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

## 2. Seeking public health advice

When one of the thresholds above is met, we will review the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We will also seek public health advice from a director of public health or health protection team. James Heaver (Assistant Principal) will be responsible for seeking this advice, and will do so by telephoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687).

## 3. 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 school or arrangements for home working or learning.

## 4. Other measures

Parents, carers, students and staff will be informed promptly about the introduction of control measures. This will be done via email/letters sent home once a decision has been made.

If recommended, we will limit:

- Residential educational visits
- Open days
- Transition or taster days
- Parents coming into school
- Live performances

If recommended, we will (re)introduce:

- Testing, including the use of an asymptomatic test site (ATS)
- Bubbles, to reduce mixing between groups
- Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for staff and visitors (unless exempt)

## 5. Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only be recommended as a last resort. If recommended, we will implement the measures in this section.

### 5.1 Eligibility to remain in school

If restrictions are recommended, we will stay open for:

- Vulnerable pupils
- Children of critical workers

### 5.2 Education and support for pupils at home

All other pupils will be required to stay at home and will receive remote education.

We will aim to deliver remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school, as outlined in our remote learning plan.

The school will offer meal allowances for students while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines. This will be paid directly to parents on a weekly basis.

### 5.3 Residential care

Residential care will remain open and operation for all residential young people unless attendance is restricted or if a young person is required to self-isolate. Self-isolation at home will be the first choice in any event however if this is not possible young people will be able to self-isolate in their bedroom in residential.

## 5.4 Safeguarding

We will review our child protection policy to make sure it reflects the local restrictions and remains effective.

We will aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on site wherever possible.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be on site, they can be contacted remotely;

James Heaver – DSL

07763625110 – [jheaver@thedeafacademy.ac.uk](mailto:jheaver@thedeafacademy.ac.uk)

Louise Hammacott – DDSL

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Mark Peel – DDSL

07843730851 – [mpeel@thedeafacademy.ac.uk](mailto:mpeel@thedeafacademy.ac.uk)

Sylvan Dewing – DDSL (Principal)

07807229796 – [sdewing@thedeafacademy.ac.uk](mailto:sdewing@thedeafacademy.ac.uk)

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site.

When vulnerable students are absent, we will:

- Speak to parents/carers and, where applicable, social workers and the local authority, to work out the reason for absence
- Encourage attendance
- Make sure vulnerable students can access appropriate education and support while at home
- Maintain contact, and check regularly that the pupil is able to access remote education provision