NBCC Risk Assessment: Operation from 1st September 2021: response to Covid-19.

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Part A: Background and Context

Control measures in this risk assessment reflect government guidance for schools. As North Bristol Children's Centre (NBCC) operates on school sites the same considerations need to be adhered to. Therefore, where school is stated within this risk assessment this also includes the CC's setting.

This risk assessment has been developed with reference to:

- Schools Covid-19 operational guidance (August 2021) <u>Schools COVID-19 operational guidance GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>.
- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic (July 2021) <u>Early years and childcare: coronavirus (COVID-19) GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>
- Contingency Framework: Education and childcare settings (August 2021)
 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

Rationale for guidance for schools from September 2021.

Government guidance has been developed on the premise that disruption to children and young people's education must be minimised. The Evidence summary: COVID-19 - children, young people and education settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) sets out the evidence relevant to, and in support of, the government's decision to revise the guidance on the COVID-19 safe working and protective measures that have been used within settings, colleges and early years settings in England during the pandemic.

In making this decision, the government has balanced education and public health considerations – weighing the impact of these measures on teaching, educational attainment, the health and wellbeing of children, pupils, students and staff and the functioning of schools, colleges and early years settings, against the COVID-19 risks in a context that has now fundamentally changed due to the success of the vaccination programme.

Contingency Planning

Government guidance requires settings to have an Outbreak Management Plan (sometimes called contingency plan) outlining how they would operate if any of the following circumstances applied to their setting or area:

- a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- if there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission
- as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC)

This includes how we would ensure every family to receives the support to which they are normally entitled.

If necessary we will reinstate relevant control measures from our 2020-21 risk assessment to address the areas set out in <u>Contingency framework: education</u> and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Our contingency plan is named Sept 2021 NBCC Contingency Plan.

Control Measures

This risk assessment addresses the essential control measures set out in the government guidance referred to above. They are as follows:

Settings should:

- 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We have adapted this risk assessment in consultation with relevant partners including trade union representatives where available. This risk assessment will be made publicly available to those who wish to see it.

Part B:

What is the	What Hazards are present or	Who is	What Severity	What Precautions (Existing Controls) are already in	What Likelihood	What is the Risk
Task/Activity	may be generated?	affected or	of Harm can	place to either eliminate or reduce the risk of an	is there of an	Rating?
or Environment	(Use a row for each one identified)			accident happening?		(See Table 2 and 3)

you are assessing? 1: ENSURE G	OOD HYGIENE FOR EVERYONE	exposed to hazards?	reasonably be expected? (See Table 1)		accident occurring? (See Table 1)	
Hand hygiene	Poor hand hygiene increases the likelihood of infection from coronavirus	Staff and visitors	Serious	Opportunities are provided for everyone to clean their hands with soap and water and dry thoroughly:	Possible	Medium
Respiratory Hygiene	Poor respiratory hygiene increases the likelihood of infection from exposure to coronavirus.	Staff and visitors	Serious	Catch it, kill it, Bin it – tissues are available in all CC rooms, staffroom and reception at a minimum. The message is reinforced with families. Covered bins are available for the disposal of used tissues.	Possible	Medium
2. MAINTAIN	N APPROPRIATE CLEANING REG	IMES				
Cleaning All sites except Stoke Park are part of SLAs	Person contracts COVID 19 as a result of inadequate cleaning	Staff and visitors	Serious	Cleaning is part of the site SLA apart from at Stoke Park where CC staff do general cleaning. Cleaners should be adhering to https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings	Possible	Medium

				Where CC staff are required to undertake cleaning duties we will ensure that they have received appropriate training and are provided with PPE, as set out in guidelines above. We have identified cleaning of high-risk areas to be undertaken throughout the school day to include: Door handles Kettles Taps Switches Phones Laptops / Printers and photocopiers Staffroom/ food preparation Surfaces that staff/service users are touching e.g.: toys, books, chairs, tables, doors, sinks, toilets, bannisters, light switches, etc. As a minimum, frequently touched surfaces will be wiped down twice a day, and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. Cleaning will be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.		
Safe use of cleaning products	Inappropriate exposure to cleaning product results in allergic reaction/ poisoning etc Storage arrangements of cleaning product change increasing potential for unauthorised 'use' by pupils.	Staff and visitors	Serious	All staff involved in cleaning duties will receive training re: safe use and storage of cleaning materials. PPE will be provided for all cleaning activities. Safety data sheets for cleaning products are available. Only recommended cleaning products will be used.	Improbable	Low

3. KEEP OCCUPIED SPACES WELL VENTILATED

Ventilation (Open windows and doors are recommend ed as a means of improving air circulation within the building)	Falls from height (open windows)	All premises occupants	Serious	Whilst taking into consideration the necessity to increase ventilation by improving air circulation within the building we have advised staff that window opening restrictors must not be removed.	Improbable	Low
	Additional doors and windows are left open compromising site security/fire safety.	All premises occupants	Serious	We have reviewed our site and identified doors that could remain open without compromising fire safety/ and or security. Here, for high-risk areas such as kitchens and boiler rooms fire doors will be kept in the closed position. Lower risk rooms such as classrooms and offices may be propped open with removable things - a weight or wedge - if there are people present who will be tasked with removing it if the alarm goes off and at the end of the day. Door guards etc, will continue to be used to improve circulation in the building (and also reduce the need for touching the door handles).	Improbable	Low
	Inadequate ventilation contributes towards the spread of coronavirus. Open windows in the winter months mean that the temperature in buildings is uncomfortable.	All premises occupants	Serious	We will ensure that our building is heated to a temperature whereby staff and pupils can work comfortably whilst endeavouring to ensure that there are measures in place to ensure good ventilation. This will be achieved by a variety of measures including: • natural ventilation – opening windows (in cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air • natural ventilation – if necessary external opening doors may also be used (as long as	Possible	Medium

4. FOLLOW F	PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE ON TEST	ΓING, SELF IS	OLATION AND N	they are not fire doors and where safe to do so) We note the following advice from HSE: https://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal/managers.htm https://www.cibse.org/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus,-sars-cov-2,-covid-19-and-hvac-systems NB: Minimum workplace temperature is 16 degrees centigrade. To balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, the following measures will also be used as appropriate: • opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts • increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied (e.g., during lunch, when a room is unused) • providing flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing. Including advising staff re: the value of layering clothing. • rearranging furniture where possible to avoid direct drafts MANAGING CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19		
Engagement with the NHS Test and Trace Process. Access to testing	Failure to follow PHE/ NHS Test and Trace procedures increases the likelihood of exposure to coronavirus in the setting community.	Staff and visitors	Serious	Relevant staff understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team. Where necessary we will direct members of the setting community with symptoms of coronavirus to Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Home test kits are available in our setting and will be offered in the exceptional circumstance that we	Possible	Medium

				believe an individual may have barriers to accessing testing elsewhere. We note that it is for settings to determine how to prioritise the distribution of their test kits in order to minimise the impact of the virus on the education of their pupils, and will therefore provide these to staff or pupils on the basis of an agreed set of criteria to be determined by the setting. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-settings-and-fe-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-settings-and-fe-providers We will ask staff and visitors to inform us immediately of the results of a test.		
Contact with infected persons/ exposure to the virus within the setting.	Person contracts coronavirus as a result of direct contact with an infected person (or a symptomatic person) entering the premises.	Pupils and staff	Serious	Guidance has been issued to the entire school community. If anyone in the setting becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be stay at home and are advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection: Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) From 16 August 2021 Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply: • they are fully vaccinated • they are below the age of 18 years and 6	Possible	Medium

			they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We will encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. Staff who do not need to isolate and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend work as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public transport.		
Contact with those developing symptoms of the virus during the working day.	Pupils and staff	Serious	If anyone in our setting develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and advised to get a PCR test and follow public health advice. When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk) Most recent guidance re: What to do if someone is displaying signs of coronavirus has been shared with relevant staff and is on display. If a family is awaiting collection, they will be moved, via a route involving the shortest possible internal distance (i.e., including an outside route where possible) if possible, to where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.	Possible	Medium

Lateral Flow	Non participation in Lateral Flow	Staff and	Serious	If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, we endeavour that they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. In an emergency we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. We will not suggest a visit to the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. Staff are instructed to wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. We will clean the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See
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				the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the member of staff or pupil can return to setting.		
Managemen t of confirmed cases of coronavirus	Failure to follow PHE/ NHS Track and Trace procedures increases the likelihood of exposure to coronavirus in the setting community. Anxiety and dissent within the setting community	Staff and visitors	Serious	We note that close contacts of those testing positive with coronavirus will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. We note that we may be contacted in exceptional cases to identify close contacts. Records will be kept of all visitors with sufficient detail to support rapid contact tracing if required by NHS Test & Trace. We note the thresholds, detailed below, can be used by settings as an indication for when to seek public health advice if they are concerned. For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first: • 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. We will seek public health advice if a staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19. Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Alternatively, we will call the Department for Education's existing coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline number on 0800 046 8687, and select option 1 For all cases relating to staff, see the guidance for workplaces: NHS Test and Trace in the workplace	Possible	Medium

				Employers should call the Self-Isolation Service Hub on: 020 3743 6715 as soon as they are made aware that any of their workers have tested positive. If cases amongst staff mean a setting meets the threshold, described above, employers will need to provide the 8-digit NHS Test and Trace Account ID (sometimes referred to as a CTAS number) of the person who tested positive, alongside the names of co-workers identified as close contacts. This will ensure that all workplace contacts are registered with NHS Test and Trace and can receive the necessary public health advice, including the support available to help people to self-isolate.		
NHS COVID-19 App	Inadequate response to alerts provided by use of NHS COVID-19 App	Staff and visitors	Serious	We have informed all staff to inform a member of staff if they receive a notification during the day that they had been in contact with a positive case. The staff member will then put in place the setting's agreed process, including making appropriate arrangements for the member of staff to leave the setting at the earliest opportunity to begin self-isolation (if unvaccinated staff member) or recommend that a PCR test is obtained at the earliest opportunity. Where staff are required to keep their phones in lockers etc during the working day we have advised them to turn the tracking off whilst they are not in close proximity to their phone.	Possible	Medium
Containing any local outbreak	Person with symptoms of coronavirus refuses to isolate at home.	Staff and visitors	Serious	We will take the decision to refuse the person if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect others from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.	Improbable	Low

	Failure to use face covering in areas where it is difficult to maintain social distancing increases the likelihood of exposure to coronavirus in the setting community.	Staff and visitors	Serious	Government guidance from 19 July 2021 is as follows: Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport". Moving to step 4 of the roadmap - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Whilst face coverings are no longer mandatory in settings, we recognise that individual staff may still wish to wear these and will allow them to do this. We will adhere to the protocols set out by our host settings eg wear masks in corridors NB: Use of face coverings could be reinstated as part of our Contingency Plan (See Section A).	Possible	Medium
	Incorrect use exacerbates the	Staff and	Serious	PPE because they are not designed to protect the wearer from	T	Low
Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Mainstream	risk of further infection.	families	Serious	We have followed the advice of our employer, Bristol City Council. This means that we will not carry out activities on site that require PPE. Staff will only make home visits if they are essential and will wear appropriate PPE during the visit.	Improbable	Low
7: CHILDREN	I'S CENTRE WORKFORCE					
Staff wellbeing	Staff anxiety re: potential exposure to the virus.	All staff	Serious	Where necessary Individual discussions are held with staff to identify concerns. (NB: recognising that some could be experiencing bereavement, mental health issues, etc.).	Possible	Medium
				EAP contact details have been shared.		
				Staff have regular meeting/supervision with an SLT member		
				Wellbeing tips shared amongst colleagues		

				HR advice is available if required. Talking with your workers about preventing coronavirus (COVID-19) - Stress, wellbeing and providing support (hse.gov.uk)		
Staff training (including induction for supply teachers and other visiting staff).	Staff are not aware or do not understand the requirements for working safely.	All staff	Serious	In preparation for a full return on 1 September 2021 training and written instruction were provided re: operating procedures outlined in this risk assessment to all staff. This includes: • What to do if they suspect that they or a member of their household has coronavirus (including testing arrangements) • Day to day organisations and procedures including arrangements for cleaning, • Procedures to follow if they suspect that a child or adult in their group is displaying coronavirus symptoms • Site security and fire safety including evacuation and lockdown procedures. Use of PPE (where applicable).	Possible	Medium
Individual staff requirement s	Concerns from staff in identified work groups	Clinically extremely vulnerable	Fatal/ Major	We have taken note of government guidance issued on 11/08/21, namely: Guidance on protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) We will discuss with employees who identify as CEV how they can be supported to carry out their duties in the workplace.	Possible	High
	Concerns from staff in identified work groups	Pregnant women	Serious	We will follow the specific guidance for pregnant employees because pregnant women are considered CV. In some cases, pregnant women may also have other health conditions that mean they are considered CEV, where the advice for clinically extremely vulnerable staff will apply. We will follow the	Possible	Medium

Use of volunteers	Potential for the introduction of coronavirus into the setting	Staff and visitors	Serious	same principles for pregnant pupils, in line with our wider health and safety obligations. NB Further guidance and advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) and pregnancy from the Royal College of Gynaecologists. Volunteers may be used to support the work of the setting, as would usually be the case. All volunteers will be expected to follow our control	Possible	Medium
8: CHILDREN	'S CENTRE COMMUNITY WELLE	BEING		measures to reduce the spread of coronavirus.		
Managemen t of expectations within the CC setting community	Anxiety within the setting's community re: prevalence and effectiveness of infection control measures.	Service users	Serious	Our communication with parents and pupils prior to our return in September 2021 will include information about the control measures within this risk assessment. Government guidance for parents is available at: What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, settings and colleges - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Possible	Medium
Community medical requirement s	Increased likelihood of serious illness resulting from exposure to coronavirus.	Extremely clinically vulnerable (shielded)	Fatal/ Major	These families will be welcomed to attend their setting unless they have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.	Possible	High
9: PROVISIO	N OF FIRST AID		1		•	
Provision of first aid	Inadequate first aid treatment exacerbates injury or pre-existing conditions.	Staff & service users	Serious	We will revert to our substantive risk assessment which includes control measures to ensure that suitably qualified staff are available at all times. We will ensure a member of staff with a full PFA certificate is on site at all times when children are present, as set out in the EYFS.	Improbable	Low

10: OFF SITE	VISITS					
Off site visits	Exposure to infection from inadequate social distancing etc	Staff & service users	Serious	We will undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all off site visits to ensure they can be undertaken safely. As part of this risk assessment, we will consider what control measures need to be used to reduce the risk of exposure to coronavirus and follow wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues.	Improbable	Low
11: SETTING	RECEPTION AREAS		•			
Setting Reception areas	Exposure to infection from inadequate social distancing: visitors to setting.	Staff & service users	Serious	Signage has been erected to advise visitors of hygiene protocols. Staff signing in arrangements - sanitiser available to clean hands after use. Hand sanitiser will be provided to all persons entering premises with signage to explain control measures etc.	Possible	Medium
	Violence and aggression towards setting staff causes injury and distress	Staff & service users	Serious	We will maintain transparency and regular contact with all members of the setting community. Regular briefings/updates for all staff so that they are aware of setting response to the COVID 19 virus and can communicate consistently to those who ask. Readiness to deploy the range of behaviour remedies if behaviour becomes unacceptable from warning to full banning from site/sect 547 warnings/action.	Improbable	Low

Action plan:

What is the Hazard you need to Control? (Medium to high from the risk rating above)	What additional precautions do you need to either eliminate or reduce the risk to an acceptable level?	Who is responsible for implementing these controls?	When are these controls to be implemented (Date)?	When were these controls implemented (Date)?
Workplace stress exacerbated by social isolation	Recognise that all staff will be experiencing a higher than normal level of stress. Regular check ins with staff and supervision.	SLT	Ongoing	
Community medical requirements	Access to services will be discussed on an individual basis with clinically extremely vulnerable service users.	Everyone	Ongoing	
Hand hygiene	Reinforce handwashing routines and remind families regularly. Ensure effective handwashing posters are displayed by every sink.	All staff	Ongoing	
Respiratory hygiene	Ensure catch it, kill it, bin it posters are displayed and provide boxes of tissues in every room.	All staff	Ongoing	
Exposure to the virus	Follow government guidance on self-isolation and ensure social distancing is enforced in the centres.	Everyone	Ongoing	
Cleaning	Maintain stringent cleaning routines and carry out regular checks. Store cleaning products in locked cupboards.	All staff	Ongoing	
Inadequate ventilation	No more can be done			
NHS Track and trace	Follow government guidelines.	Everyone	Ongoing	
Contact with those developing symptoms of the virus during the working day.	Maintain extra vigilance.	Everyone	Ongoing	

Correct use of face coverings	Face masks/shields provided for all staff	Everyone	Ongoing	
Correct procedure for lateral flow testing	Follow NHS instructions.	All staff	Ongoing	From 20/01/21
Management of confirmed cases	Follow government guidelines.	All staff	Ongoing	
Correct disposal of face masks	Waste bins with lids at all settings. Nappy sacks provided for staff going on home visits.	Everyone	Ongoing	
NHS Track and trace	Follow government guidelines.	All staff	Ongoing	
Staff well being	Staff have fortnightly check ins on an individual basis.	SLT	Ongoing	March 2020
Staff training	Continue up dating staff of any changes and offer relevant training.	SLT	ongoing	
Individual staff requirements	No more can be done			
Management of expectations within the Children Centre community	Continue to maintain social distancing. Replace any signs damaged or unreadable.	All staff	Ongoing	
Exposure to infection from inadequate social distancing: visitors to setting.	No more can be done			

Potential Severity of Harm	Meaning of the harm description	Likelihood/Probability of Harm	Meaning of likelihood/probability
Fatal/Major Injury	Death, major injuries or ill health causing long term disability/absence from work.	High (Likely/probable)	Occurs repeatedly/ to be expected.
Serious Injury	Injuries or ill health causing short-term disability/absences from work (over three days absence)	Medium (possible)	Moderate chance/could occur sometimes.
Minor Injury	Injuries or ill health causing no significant long-term effects and no significant absence from work.	Low (unlikely)	Not Likely to occur

Table 2: Risk rating matrix: Potential severity of harm + Likelihood/ probability of Harm = Risk rating

	High (Likely/Probable)	Medium (Possible)	Low (Unlikely)
Fatal/Major Injury	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
Serious Injury	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Minor Injury	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW

Table 3: Action required: Key to ranking and what action to take

VERY HIGH Risk	STOP ACTIVITY! Take action to reassess the work/activity and apply reduction hierarchy before proceeding.
HIGH Risk	Action MUST be taken as soon as possible to reduce the risks and before activity is allowed to continue.
MEDIUM Risk	Implement all additional precautions that are not unreasonably costly or troublesome within an agreed timeframe. Reduce risk to a tolerable level.

Monitor and review your rolling programme.

LOW Risk