**COVID-19 Policy**



Date:

Review Date:

Responsible Person:

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**More Than Ed’s COVID – 19 Policy has been produced in line with DfE’s** “**Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings”** (8th September 2020) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

More than Ed will implement the following practices and procedures in order to minimise risk of infection and spread within the Provision.

**1. Prevention**

1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.

2) Where recommended, use of face coverings in schools. (This is not applicable as all More Than Ed students have ASD, SEMH, or other SEN needs)

*“Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:*

* *cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties*
* *speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate*

*The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.”*

3) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.

4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.

5) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

6) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

7) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Numbers 1 to 5 must be in place in all settings, all the time.**

**2. Response to any infection**

8) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

9) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting’s community.

10) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

**Numbers 8 to 10 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.**

**3. More Than Ed’s Response**

Whilst we cannot socially distance children entirely, More Than Ed will adhere to the following rules as closely as is possible:

* Each child will have an individual COVID-19 risk assessment based on their needs and circumstances.
* Children will travel to and from home separately wherever possible:

*“The approach to dedicated transport should align as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for your school. It is important to consider:*

* *how mixing might be minimised on school transport. Where possible it is recommended that children and young people either sit with their ‘bubble’ on school transport, or within the same constant group each day*
* *children and young people cleaning their hands before boarding transport and again on disembarking*
* *additional cleaning of vehicles*
* *organised queuing and boarding where possible*
* *distancing within vehicles wherever possible*
* *maximising through ventilation of fresh air (from outside the vehicle), particularly through opening windows and ceiling vents”*
* All venues are large and airy, with natural ventilation
* As many activities as possible will be outside.
* On arrival at all venues, staff will spray door handles, surfaces, toilets and sinks with antibacterial spray
* Children and staff will wash their hands regularly, and use sanitiser (more often if using the kitchen or bathroom)
* Seating will be 1 metre apart where possible
* No contact sport will be played
* Tissues will be available at all venues to encourage ‘catch it and bin it’ and all young people will be regularly reminded regarding these rules
* Staff will follow Government guidelines regarding social distancing to reduce risk of contracting the disease outside of More Than Ed
* Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they, or any member of their household show symptoms of COVID-19 until that person has been tested or for at least 14 days from the day their symptoms started. If the test is negative the child may return, however if the test is positive then the child must remain at home for at least 14 days
* Staff and students who have been in contact with a child who could potentially be infected with Coronavirus will be asked to stay at home until they have received a negative test result for the disease.

More Than Ed will keep up to date with new regulations and guidance from the Government, DMBC, Department for Education and Ofsted and communicate any necessary details to all families by email or text.

**4. Workforce Guidelines**

*“DfE have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and PHE to develop this specific guidance for school settings. The PHE and DHSC endorsed system of controls outlined in this document sets out the measures that school leaders and all school staff should follow when planning for a full return in September.*

*Where settings implement the system of controls outlined in this document, in line with their own workplace risk assessment, PHE and DHSC confirm that these measures create an inherently safer environment for children, young people and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.*

*As a result, on current evidence, PHE and DHSC advise that schools are not currently considered high risk settings when compared to other workplace environments. Rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) are now reduced to levels below those seen when shielding was introduced, and shielding measures have been paused from 1 August 2020, with the exception of areas with additional local restrictions means that shielding will continue. It is therefore appropriate for teachers and other school staff to return to their workplace setting. Accordingly, we expect that staff who need to will attend school and you should consider what is feasible and appropriate with regards to home working for your individual circumstances.*

*All staff should follow the measures set out in the system of controls section of this guidance to minimise the risks of transmission”.*

**5.** **Staff who are clinically vulnerable.**

“*Clinically vulnerable staff can return to school in the autumn term. While within the setting they should follow the sector-specific measures in this document to minimise the risks of transmission. People who live with those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable can attend the workplace. Pregnant women are in the ‘clinically vulnerable’ category, and are generally advised to follow the above advice, which applies to all staff in schools”*

**6.** **Process in the event of local outbreaks.**

If Doncaster sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, DMBC LA will decide on which measures to implement to help contain the spread. DfE will be involved in decisions at a local and national level and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow health advice. More Than Ed will follow all guidelines issued.

**7. Contingency plans for outbreaks**

In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise a setting or number of settings to close temporarily to help control transmission. Settings will also need a contingency plan for this eventuality. This may involve a return to remaining open only for vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers and providing remote education for all other pupils. As More Than Ed caters for vulnerable children only, we will not be expected to close.