Statistics show that the country is reaching a more stable position with regard to COVID. Whilst outbreaks may occur, it is now assumed that schools will work in a way that treats COVID as endemic, with the caveat that the position is dynamic as we learn more about the disease. The Government have removed domestic restrictions and are expecting workplaces to encourage safer behaviours through public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing most other respiratory illnesses.

While a different disease to COVID-19, the most common comparison is to influenza. Both viruses can result in severe illness and complications and are thought to spread in similar ways. The virus that causes COVID-19 is far more contagious and can cause more serious illness, even in otherwise healthy people. Influenza is managed through ongoing surveillance, annual vaccination and annual public messaging, including campaigns to increase vaccine uptake and the ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ campaign to reduce transmission from coughs and sneezes. Influenza still produces regular winter epidemics, causing pressure on the NHS every winter. The interaction of future COVID-19 waves with other respiratory infections, like influenza, will be important to monitor.

People will continue to be advised that there are safer behaviours they can adopt to reduce the risk of infection. Precautions remain particularly important to those who are at higher risk if they catch COVID-19, although due to advances in vaccination and therapeutics, this group is now better protected. The majority of people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable are now advised to follow the same general guidance as everyone else as a result of the protection they have received from vaccination.

Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated;
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside;
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high;
- Trying to stay at home if you are unwell;
- Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- Washing your hands and following advice to ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’.

The Risk Assessment below shows how Castleman Schools will continue to manage COVID-19.
## Response to Infection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard/Risk</th>
<th>Who is at risk?</th>
<th>Current controls in Place</th>
<th>Level of Residual Risk Low, Medium, High or Very High?</th>
<th>Additional measures to control the risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| High risk of infection | Close contact with a confirmed case will increase the risk of infection | • From 1 April 2022, staff, visitors and pupils with symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and a high temperature should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and no longer have a high temperature.  
• From 1st April 2022, adults with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with people for five days. They can resume normal activities if they are well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature.  
• Children with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. They can resume normal activities if they are well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature.  
• Public Health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed on 24 February 2022. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.  
• Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.  
• Vaccines are recommended for all school staff.  
• Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups are advised to continue to follow “Guidance for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19”. Children and young people over the age of 12 with a weakened immune system should follow “Guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19”. | MEDIUM (M)  
Possibility of 3 day absence | Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely. |

## Staffing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard/Risk</th>
<th>Who is at risk?</th>
<th>Current controls in Place</th>
<th>Level of Residual Risk Low, Medium, High or Very High?</th>
<th>Additional measures to control the risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff capacity/shortage will compromise the ability to run educational provision</td>
<td>Insufficient staff/shortage – Staff to child ratio – adherence to current national guidelines for class size and safeguarding requirements</td>
<td>• Headteacher to make all staff aware that should they be travelling to countries that require testing or quarantine upon return, they should allow sufficient time for this guidance to be implemented</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>Trust wide support would be available if staffing levels were insufficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Covid Risk Assessment (Covid-19 Response to Government Guidance, updated 14 April 2022)

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### Hygiene and Cleaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard/Risk</th>
<th>Who is at risk?</th>
<th>Current controls in Place</th>
<th>Level of Residual Risk Low, Medium, High or Very High?</th>
<th>Additional measures to control the risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Direct and indirect transmission combined with poor hygiene (not washing hands adequately or adhering to respiratory hygiene guidance) will result in a higher infection rate | Children and staff to adhere to increase hygiene (hand washing, sanitiser, tissues) and ventilation of spaces to reduce the risk of transmission | • Ensure sufficient tissues, handwashing supplies and facilities are available with hand sanitiser available across the school, including all school entrances  
• Frequent and thorough handwashing by children encouraged and made a regular practice  
• Encourage children and staff not to touch their faces  
• Use a tissue or elbow to cough/sneeze and use bins for waste (emptied regularly)  
• Engage children in resources such as the DfE recommended E-Bug COVID-19 website  
• Display posters in all rooms and entrances to reinforce expectations for good hygiene and hand washing  
• Natural ventilation encouraged. Advice is to balance ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature  
• Poorly ventilated spaces identified and CO2 monitors in use within these areas (to indicate when additional ventilation is required)  
• Mechanical ventilation should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate where possible and checked to ensure that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh air is circulated | MEDIUM (M)  
Possibility of 3 day absence | Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely. |
| The virus can be transmitted by touching contaminated surfaces | Children and staff at school – touching contaminated surfaces | • School cleaned at end of each school day  
• Caretaker to ensure door handles, banisters, light switches and public areas are disinfected regularly  
• Frequent cleaning of shared areas (including frequently touched surfaces, kettles, fridge doors etc.)  
• Ensure adequate stock of cleaning materials  
• Handwashing facilities and supplies available and use encouraged | MEDIUM (M)  
Possibility of 3 day absence | Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely. |

### First Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard/Risk</th>
<th>Who is at risk?</th>
<th>Current controls in Place</th>
<th>Level of Residual Risk Low, Medium, High or Very High?</th>
<th>Additional measures to control the risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Medical and intimate care requires close proximity to a child, increasing the risk of transmission | Staff treating children for first aid or dealing with intimate care needs | • Staff must wear an appropriate level of PPE when dealing with first aid or intimate care of a child as appropriate  
• Minimum of one first aid trained member of staff and DSL on site | MEDIUM (M)  
Possibility of 3 day absence | Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESIDUAL RISK RATING</th>
<th>ACTION REQUIRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERY HIGH (VH) Strong likelihood of fatality / serious injury occurring</td>
<td>The activity must not take place at all. You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH (H) Possibility of fatality/serious injury occurring</td>
<td>You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating. Seek further advice, e.g. from your H&amp;S Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIUM (M) Possibility of significant injury or over 3 day absence occurring</td>
<td>If it is not possible to lower risk further, you will need to consider the risk against the benefit. Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOW (L) Possibility of minor injury only</td>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>