

Planning for schools “re-opening”: PPE

Context

This document sets out the approach of the local authority to PPE in relation to schools. This should be read in conjunction with the document circulated on Monday 18th May 2020: *Covid19 Risk Assessment and Safe Methods of Working in Coventry Schools 180520 (page 16)*. Consideration of PPE is linked to the first locally agreed principle in the Coventry approach which is, **“The safety of everyone in school is paramount.”** Consideration of PPE should be undertaken as part of completion of the risk assessment for each school setting.

What does DfE guidance say about PPE in schools?

Guidance regarding PPE in schools is set out below, from, “DfE: Coronavirus (Covid-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings.” (Updated 12 May 2020)

“Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- *children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way*
- *if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn*

Education, childcare and children’s social care settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible, and there is unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they may approach their nearest local resilience forum.”

Read the guidance on [safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care](#) for more information about preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE.”

Supplies of PPE to schools

The implications of DfE guidance and effective risk assessment, is that in most cases only relatively limited supplies of PPE itself will be required. Coventry City Council is seeking to provide sufficient face masks, gloves and aprons to support the use of PPE as outlined in DfE guidance and **will make available an 'emergency pack' of 10 face masks, aprons and gloves for all schools delivered upon request**, to assist in the case of a child becoming symptomatic whilst on site where it is not possible to safely isolate and care for the child whilst maintaining a distance of 2m. **We will also provide face masks, gloves and aprons to assist in supporting children with SEN whose support needs make social distancing impossible, considered on a case by case basis.** (Please see information about accessing this further down this document). **Where schools wish to procure a greater quantity for use across a wider breadth of situations beyond this and in particular, beyond that for which DfE guidance stipulates a recommendation for PPE, schools will need to source this through alternative means.**

Other supplies of hygiene/cleaning

DfE guidance maintains that thorough and frequent hand washing is the effective means of hygiene. Supplementing this, Coventry City Council has access to supplies of hand-gel available in pocket-sized bottles of 30 ml, 50ml, 60ml & 100ml. (Please see information about ordering this further down this document).

In addition, schools are able to access the Council's contract rates with Arrow, the Council's cleaning supplier for other hygiene/cleaning supplies:

Contract Title	Contact ref.	Contact name	Tel.	E-mail
Cleaning Materials and Washroom Supplies	COV7702	Joseph Blackledge	01743 283605/ 07468 471344	Joseph.Blackledge@arrowcounty.com

If Arrow are unable to support your purchasing needs, the following companies may be able to assist you:

Company	Contact details:
ESPO	c.services@espo.org , , 0116 265 7601
Tudor Environmental	Alex Beresford, Alex@tudorenvironmental.co.uk , 02476 856846
Ecofeat	Manjit Sangha, hello@ecofeat.co.uk , 07899 796242

If enquiries with these companies do not lead to a successful purchase, please make us aware at covid19schools@coventry.go.uk and we will see what we can do to help.

How to order supplies from the Council

Schools can order the PPE packs, hand-sanitiser and supplies to assist children with special educational needs, based on a 4-week period. **The order forms below** need to be completed and sent to Covid19schools@coventry.go.uk.

Please contact: covid19schools@coventry.go.uk if you have any other questions about PPE.

COVID-19 PPE REQUEST FORM (Ed. & Skills)

Name: <include contact name for order here>

Service Area / Provider: <include name of school here> (Education & Skills)

Delivery Address: <include school address here>

Opening hours: < opening hours for deliveries>

Contact Number & E-mail: <include contact number and e-mail for delivery here>

PPE/ Hand sanitiser	Current stocks	Total 4 weeks requirements from week commencing / /	Calculations
Hand Sanitiser Gel	[]ml	[]ml	<i>i.e. 3ml per squirt, 2 squirts a day, 20 people on site. 3 x 2 x 20 x 5 = 600ml</i>

Your order for the next 4 weeks:

PPE/Hand sanitiser	Preferred unit sizes:
30 ml bottles	[] bottles
50ml bottles	[] bottles
60ml bottles	[] bottles
100 ml bottles	[] bottles

- Yes, I would like an 'emergency pack' of 10 face masks, 10 aprons and 10 pairs of gloves for use if a child becomes symptomatic and it is not possible for staff to isolate and care for the child whilst maintaining social distancing.

PLEASE ENSURE THIS FORM IS RECEIVED TO covid19schools@coventry.gov.uk BY NO LATER THAN **WEDNESDAY 12 NOON** FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK DELIVERY

COVID-19 PPE REQUEST FORM (SEN)

Name: <include contact name for order here>

Service Area / Provider: <include name of school here> (Education & Skills)

Delivery Address: <include school address here>

Opening hours: < opening hours for deliveries>

Contact Number & E-mail: <include contact number and e-mail for delivery here>

Please tell us the UPNs of the children with whom staff will be using this PPE and a brief description of the needs/ scenarios for which you plan to use the PPE (please add more rows if you need to):

Child UPN	What are their needs? What do you anticipate will you use the PPE for?

PPE	Current stocks	Total 4 weeks requirements from week commencing / /
Gloves – Nitrile	 pairs	 pairs
Gloves - Latex	 pairs	 pairs
Disposable Aprons - lightweight	 individual aprons	 individual aprons
FFP2 respiratory face masks	 individual masks	 individual masks

For further guidance on use of PPE, see the DFE's [SEND Risk Assessment guidance](#)

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