



Ripon Grammar School

Covid-19: Operational Guidance for Students on return in September 2021

The following is a summary of the current gov.uk 'Operational Guidance' which can be read in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#stepping>

The key points are:

- At step 4 the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus
- This new phase marks a move away from the stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives towards advising people on how to protect themselves, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk
- As the virus becomes something we learn to live with there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to young people's education and the priority is to deliver high quality face to face education

The guidance will operate under normal circumstances. **However, in the case of a localised outbreak, separate 'outbreak management plans' may apply, which may lead to the re-introduction of additional control measures such as face masks etc.**

1. Year group mixing, timetable adaptations and access to school site

- There will be no year group bubbles or restrictions on mixing during break, lunch, assemblies etc.
- Boarding sub-bubbles will no longer apply.
- A normal timetable will be in operation with students travelling to different classrooms for their lessons.
- Normal practical- based curriculum activities will resume in full.
- Library will be fully accessible to all.
- Sharing of equipment between students is not prohibited but should be kept to a minimum.
- There will be no covid-related one-way systems or segregated toilets etc.
- For entry to the school grounds there will be three gates operating:
 - Allotment gate- pedestrian access
 - Reception gate- access from buses and pedestrian access for Clothholme Road [barracks end]
 - Main drive gate- pedestrian access for Clothholme Road [Ripon city centre end]

2. Contact tracing and self-isolation

- Contact tracing will be undertaken by NHS Test and Trace who will liaise with students and parents.
- Self-isolation will not be required of students if they are:
 - aged 18 years and 6 months or below
 - fully [double]vaccinated
- However, if identified as a close contact, all individuals should:
 - take a PCR test
 - wear a face mask on public and home to school transport
- Close contact is likely to be defined as mixing within:
 - Day groups- a class/team/friendship group
 - Boarding groups- dorm or year group

3. Face coverings

- Gov.uk no longer recommends that face coverings are worn in classrooms or communal areas.
- However, students may wear a face covering in any situation should they so wish and all students should still bring a face mask to school in case they are requested to wear one as part of an 'outbreak management plan'.
- Gov.uk recommends face covering in places where students may come in contact with people they would not otherwise meet e.g. public transport.

4. Additional control measures

- Hand washing - will continue to be encouraged. Hand sanitiser stations will be maintained on entry to school buildings and students should continue to hand sanitise before break & lunch.
- 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' - will be promoted via posters/messages
- Cleaning - procedures will remain in place including the use of detergents etc. in line with PHE advice. As before, classrooms will have detergent and tissue for cleaning down desks/equipment if required.
- Ventilation - windows should remain open as far as possible to promote good ventilation. This needs to balance the need for a comfortable classroom temperature. Students must not close windows without staff permission.
- Air quality - will be monitored using CO2 monitors [as supplied by gov.uk] and a risk assessment maintained for areas identified as having poor ventilation. The school will consider further measures if required.

5. Managing individuals with symptoms or a positive test.

- All students must stay at home if they develop symptoms.
- If a student develops symptoms at school they will be isolated [masters' dining room] and then sent home [avoiding public transport].
- Boarders, during boarding hours, will be isolated in the boarding house until they can be collected to go home.
- Those with symptoms or testing positive should follow the stay at home guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

6. Asymptomatic Testing

- All students have been offered two LF tests [3-5 days apart] before the start of school. Those that have not been tested in school should conduct a test at home before returning on the 7th-8th September.
- Students should continue to test twice weekly until the end of September in the first instance after which further guidance will be issued.
- Students should self-isolate following a positive LF test and take a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, and taken within two days of the LF test, students may return to school [so long as they don't have continuing symptoms].
- All positive tests must be communicated to school via admin@ripongrammar.com
- Tests can be booked online through the [NHS website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119.

7. Remote Education

- Remote education will continue for those who are self-isolating due to a positive test and who are asymptomatic and are therefore able to undertake remote education.
- If 25% of a class/group are self-isolating [e.g. due most likely because of a localised outbreak] then live lessons will resume via Teams, as per the remote education policy. Teachers may choose to use live lessons at any point before that threshold is reached.
- Remote education will only apply in the above circumstances. Students absent from school for any other reasons should catch up on work missed in the usual way.

8. Student wellbeing and support

- This will be continued via the PSHCE and tutor programme

9. Clubs, societies, lettings, and educational visits out of school hours

- These can resume in full due to relaxation of guidance on social distancing and year group bubbles. The same guidance applies to out of school-hours activities as normal school operational guidance.
- Lettings will continue running at the school. This guidance will be issued to our clients and any COVID outbreak within the lettings group must be reported to the school.

10. Localised outbreaks and management planning

- Measures may be stepped up or down depending on the level of Covid-19 cases within the school community according to the gov.uk 'contingency framework'.
- Any decision to step up or down will be done in liaison with the local NY public health protection team.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

- Measures to deal with a localised outbreak will be kept to a minimum as far as possible, affecting the smallest number of students. This is to ensure that educational opportunities are maximised.
- All measures will be implemented in full consultation with the local NY PH team who remain responsible for managing localised outbreaks.

JMW 01.09.21