

# Back to School



# Guidance

- Welsh Government issued guidance on 10 June – Keep Education Safe
- The guidance provides practical and learning guidance for the phased room from 29 June 2020 up to the 24 July 2020

# Overview of the key points

- The guidance is clear that schools should work with local authorities to open up schools to more pupils
- There are three sections in the guidance
  - Preparing for an increase in operations
  - Keeping people safe and well
  - Facilities and logistics

# Facilities and logistics: managing the setting – Cleaning and Disinfection

## General hygiene and preventative controls

- Buildings must be cleaned regularly.
- Hard surfaces should be cleaned with warm soapy water or the normal cleaning products used.
- Particular attention should be given to clean 'high-touch' areas and surfaces.
- These areas should be cleaned at least once a day and more frequently in high use areas based on local assessment, including bathrooms, railings, tables, toys, equipment door handles, push pads, taps and hand sanitiser dispensers.
- Rooms should be cleaned when different groups use a room.
- Cleaning staff should maintain social distancing from each other and from staff and learners at all times.
- Tissues should be placed in a separate waste bin and disposed of safely. All rubbish should be removed daily.

# Cleaning where someone has shown symptoms

- All areas where this person has been should be identified and kept clear
- Management of the area should be physical where possible i.e. barriers with suitable signage or behind locked doors
- A clean down prior to reoccupation should take place, considering the cleaning in non-healthcare settings [guidance](#)
- Particular attention should be given to any specific area with which the person has been in contact.
- should be placed in a waste bag, held in a secure place for 72 hours the disposed of with other waste.
- Cleaning staff should fully understand the cleaning requirements. Local authorities should work with schools and settings to ensure that cleaning staff have appropriate training, products and equipment available to them in

# Catering

- Lunch does not need to be provided or that learners should bring their own lunches to minimise the risk of transmission
- Schools or settings may need to provide lunch but this depends on the timetable.
- Movement between rooms should be kept to a minimum
- Areas should be cleaned according to guidelines after eating
- If learners are eating in their classroom, tables should be removed of clutter, disinfected, and visually clean before providing the meal/snack.
- Staff and learners should also wash their hands before and after serving and eating food.
- Local authorities and head teachers should work with food providers and suppliers to ensure rigour in hygiene, including preparation, consumption and disposal.

# Risk Assessments

- Schools need to carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment
- The risk assessment should translate into the specific actions that will need to be taken and will be influenced by site specific factors.
- Controls should be considered following the hierarchy of control approach.
- The assessment should consider what measures need to be implemented to protect the health and safety of all staff, learners, visitors and contractors.
- Employers must consult with the health and safety representative selected by a recognised trade union or, if there isn't one, a representative chosen by staff.

# PPE

- No PPE is required when undertaking routine educational activities in classroom or school settings.
- Gloves and aprons should be used when cleaning the areas where a person suspected of having COVID-19 has been.
- PPE use should be identified as part of the risk assessment and appropriate training should be given.



# School Recovery Checklist

## Things to consider

1. Premises
2. Attendance
3. Staffing
4. Wellbeing of staff and students
5. Transition
6. Curriculum
7. Other

# Useful links

## General

- [Keep Education Safe: Operational guidance for schools and settings \(COVID-19\)](#)

## Cleaning

- [Cleaning in non-healthcare setting](#)
- [Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting - Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

## Premises

- [Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [Legionella risks during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

## Catering

- [Checklist for school caterers](#)

## Templates, forms and documents (Inc. example risk assessments)

- [Gloucester Council](#)
- [HSE guidance](#)
- [HSE – Northern Ireland](#)

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