



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to share the most recent update on the Public Health England Guidance COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE), updated 18 June 2020, especially their clarification of aerosol generating procedures, section 8.1, in clinical settings and the impact this has on your child returning to school before the end of this academic year.

The School Leadership Team met with the NHS Special School Nursing Management last week to discuss the return to school risk assessment for those children and young people who have aerosol generated procedures in their health and care plans.

*'The highest risk of transmission of respiratory viruses is during AGPs of the respiratory tract, and use of enhanced respiratory protective equipment is indicated for health and social care workers performing or assisting in such procedures. The [evidence review](#) will continue to be updated in light of emerging evidence for this new pathogen.*

*A long-sleeved disposable fluid repellent gown (covering the arms and body) or disposable fluid repellent coveralls, a filtering face piece class 3 (FFP3) respirator, a full-face shield or visor and gloves are recommended during AGPs on possible and confirmed cases, regardless of the clinical setting. Subject to local risk assessment, the same precautions apply for all patients regardless of case status in contexts of sustained COVID-19 transmission. Where an AGP is a single procedure, PPE is subject to single use with disposal after each patient contact or procedure as appropriate.*

*NERVTAG reviewed the evidence summary provided by Health Protection Scotland\* on 17 May 2020 and concluded that the list of procedures currently considered to be potentially infectious AGPs for COVID-19 are:*

- *respiratory tract suctioning*
- *bronchoscopy*
- *manual ventilation*
- *tracheal intubation and extubation*
- *tracheotomy or tracheostomy procedures (insertion or removal)*
- *upper ENT airway procedures that involve suctioning*
- *upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy where there is open suctioning of the upper respiratory tract*
- *high speed cutting in surgery/post mortem procedures if this involves the respiratory tract or paranasal sinuses*
- *dental procedures using high speed devices such as ultrasonic scalers and high speed drills*
- *non-invasive ventilation (NIV); Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (BiPAP) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (CPAP)*
- *High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation (HFOV)*
- *induction of sputum using nebulised saline*
- *high flow nasal oxygen (HFNO)*

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## Learning for Life!



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe#section-8point1>

Based on the above update from PHE and the risk assessment review for your child, unfortunately we are unable to put in place the necessary environmental safety measures to safeguard your child, their peers or staff when carrying out respiratory tract suctioning for your child.

Based on current guidance there is a strong possibility that your child is unable to return to school before September 2020.

We remain committed to bring your child to school as soon as it is safe to do so. We will continue to monitor PHE guidance and will contact you if there are any changes.

Yours sincerely

Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher

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