Ambitious About Autism Risk Assessment – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Risk Assessment – The Rise School

Definitions

"AaA" means Ambitious About Autism and Ambitious About Autism Schools Trust.

Clarifications

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to outline risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the actions AaA is taking to manage these risks, specifically for The Rise School. This particular risk assessment is to cover a specific AaA setting and is intended to cover any person entering that setting, regardless of whether they are a pupil, parent or guardian, member of staff, volunteer, partner, visitor or contractor.

Separate, more specific risk assessments have been drawn up for specific groups of staff, as well as pupils and learners. This risk assessment is different in the sense that it is intended to cover access to and generally understood activities within a particular setting or location.

AaA recognizes that some staff are classified as per the government guidance as being particularly vulnerable. Where appropriate and in accordance with government guidance, separate, individual risk assessment and subsequent adjustments will be made for these staff.

THIS RISK ASSESMENT MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERIC "SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF" RISK ASSESMSENT (*Please see footnote on final page of this document)

THIS RISK ASSESMENT IS REVIEWED MONTHLY, AND WILL THEREFORE CAPTURE ANY ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES DEEMED NECCESARY AS THEY ARISE.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 1 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

1.0 Background

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and so the emergence of new variants is an expected occurrence and not in itself a cause for concern; SARS-CoV-2 is no exception. A diversification of SARS-CoV-2 due to evolution and adaptation processes has been observed globally.

While most emerging mutations will not have a significant impact on the spread of the virus, some mutations or combinations of mutations may provide the virus with a selective advantage, such as increased transmissibility or the ability to evade the host immune response. In such cases, these variants could increase the risk to human health and are considered to be variants of concern. AaA will continue to monitor and react to all new variants of the coronavirus and implement specific controls measures where necessary.

Routine lateral flow testing is carried out at home by any staff working in our settings and continues as per government guidelines.

On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 (Omicron) a variant of concern on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group. This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves, for example, on how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes.

EU's public health agency warned that Omicron could cause more than half of all new COVID-19 infections in Europe within the next few months, evidence was emerging, however, that vaccines still appear to offer protection against serious illness.

From Monday 17 January 2022, people with COVID-19 in England can end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6.

It is crucial that people isolating with COVID-19 wait until they have received 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests on 2 consecutive days to reduce the chance of still being infectious.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on day 6 and day 7 to release from isolation.

It is essential that 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests are taken on consecutive days and reported before individuals return to their job or education, if leaving self-isolation earlier than the full 10-day period.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 2 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are strongly encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters, if they have not already done so. Vaccines are the best way we can protect our pupils/learners and each other against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them.

Face coverings must now be worn again in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils/learners aged 11 and above, unless they are exempt.

2.0 Latest Information

General NHS / PHE / GOV COVID-19 Guidance

GOV.UK COVID-19 List of Guidance

NHS England – About COVID-19

NHS COVID-19 Symptoms

List of COVID-19 Symptoms

NHS COVID-19 Home testing guidance

Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

COVID-19 home test: step-by-step guide (adults and children) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Risk Assessment

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 3 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust							
Description of tas	k and specific area be	ing assesse	ed				
Coronavirus (2019	9-NCoV) – The Rise Sch	nool, Browe	lls Lane, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7EF				
Name of Assessor: Leigh-Anne Sullivan			Reviewed by: Helen Ralston	Date of Assessment: 15/05/2020			
Position Held: School Business Manager			Position Held: Head of School	Planned Review Date: Reviewed Monthly			
Activity or Area	Risk Identified	Persons	Control Measures				
Hazard		at Risk	(Mitigating actions and measures taken by AaA)				
Description Communal areas	Risk of contracting	Staff,	1) Ensure that all staff actively subscribe to the	principles of handwashing / sleanliness /			
of the school:	COVID19 from	pupils,	 Ensure that all staff actively subscribe to the appropriate use and application of PPE / use 	•			
Corridors,	pupils, colleagues, or	visitors	accommodation.	of common resources / use of office			
entrance,	others within the		2) All building users are to clean their hands upon arrival at the school, before and after				
reception,	teaching & learning		eating, and after sneezing or coughing.				
staircases.	environment.		3) All building users are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes, and nose.				
			4) Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill				
			it').				
			5) Ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day.6) Display up-to-date posters on doors where there is no entry to a room.				
			7) Use prominent signage to stop ANYONE exhibiting symptoms from entering the school or				
			college settings.				
			8) Provide high alcohol hard surface wipes/disinfectant spray, for assigned staff to wipe down high contact areas within assigned zones.				
			<u> </u>	ool are required to always have a radio with			
			 All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support. 				
			 Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and bathrooms. 				
			11) Severely restrict external visitors from entering the education settings. All visitors must have a critical reason for entering the building.				
			12) Restrict contractor attendance to critical and compliance-related work only, ensuring that said work is undertaken over weekends or after hours where at all possible.				
			Ensure areas are ventilated, opening window possible.	vs, and propping open doors wherever			

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 4 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

Reception Entrance to school	Over Crowding in entrance area, risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others	Staff, pupils, visitors	 14) Staff of our Schools and colleges to wear face masks in communal areas such as corridors, toilets, etc. Please refer to the Coronavirus information hub, face coverings information for staff page for further information. 15) Staff are encouraged to wear face coverings in classrooms and when working directly with pupils. 16) Face coverings must be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils/learner in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt 1) Staff, pupils, and visitors MUST wear Face masks when in communal areas. 2) Take appropriate actions to reduce risk if hygiene rules and social distancing is not possible, for example when transporting children and young people with complex needs who need support to access the vehicle or fasten seatbelts.
Gated entrances and exits to school	Over-crowding at entrance area, risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others	Staff, pupils, visitors	 Signage on gates to remind people of entry point and to sanitise hands. Staff at each entrance and exit to support and direct. Allocation of entry and exit points communicated with families and staff.
Standard Classrooms – 001, 002, 003, 004, 006, 007, 008, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 – Number of staff and pupils	Staff, pupils	 These control measure are in addition to the General Classroom Risk Assessment. Posters on internal doors to remind pupils and staff to maintain 1 person at a time in the quiet room. Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes & face masks are in each room in use. All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support. Individual device allocated to pupil, secured to ensure no trip hazards and cross contamination. Individual pupil pencil cases and workbooks allocated to reduce cross contamination. Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 5 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

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			7) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever
			possible.
			8) Clean tables before and after eating.
			9) The school will align itself with the roll-out of CO2 detectors as per government guidance
			and will arrange their installation as they arrive.
Specialist	Risk of pupils / staff	Staff,	These control measures are in addition to the Food Technology Risk Assessment.
Classroom – Food Tech 108	contracting COVID19 – Number of staff	pupils	 Posters within classrooms to remind pupils and staff to keep distance and wash hands regularly.
	and pupils		 All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support.
			 Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes located in each room in use.
			4) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.
			5) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever
			possible.
Specialist	Risk of pupils / staff	Staff,	These control measure are in addition to the Gym Risk Assessment .
Classroom –	contracting COVID19	pupils	1) Posters within room to remind pupils and staff to keep distance and wash hands regularly.
Common Room &	 Number of staff 		2) All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with
Gym 005	and pupils		them if they require support.
			3) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes
			located in each room in use.
			4) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched
			surfaces and equipment.
			5) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever
			possible.
			6) Equipment is not to be shared unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use.
Specialist	Risk of pupils / staff	Staff,	1) Posters within room to remind pupils and staff to keep distance and wash hands regularly.
Classroom –	contracting COVID19	pupils	2) All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with
Sensory Room	 Number of staff 		them if they require support.
010	and pupils		3) Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes
			located in each room in use.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 6 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

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Title:	-	Corona	virus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment Page: Page 7 of 13
Kitchen	Risk of contracting COVID19 from surfaces within the	Staff, pupils	 Ensure strict and regular kitchen cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces and equipment people can touch. Use signage and stickers near and in entrances to the kitchen, only 2 members of staff to enter at a time, to reinforce the importance of social distancing and handwashing.
	– Number of staff and pupils		 Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces. Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever possible. Lunch times will be split into 2 sittings to ensure social distancing. The daytime cleaner would be on site during this time and will assist in cleaning the tables and touch points in between sittings.
Dining Hall	contracting COVID19 - Number of staff and pupils Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19	pupils Staff, pupils	 reinforce social distancing. 2) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces. 3) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever possible. 4) Lunch times will be split into 2 sittings to ensure social distancing. 1) Use tape or floor stickers where appropriate to demarcate areas to encourage and reinforce social distancing.
Specialise Classroom - Soft Play 009	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others within the teaching & learning environment. Risk of pupils / staff	Staff, Pupils	 Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces and computer equipment. Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever possible. Equipment is not to be shared unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use. All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support. Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes located in each room in use. Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, cleaning before and after each use. Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows, and propping open doors wherever possible. Staff to observe social distancing where possible.

Review Date:

04/03/2022

20 May 2020

Issue Date:

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	kitchen / canteen		3) Ensure that staff using the kitchen are supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE.
	facilities.		4) Ensure very good supplies of soap to support and encourage good handwashing practice.
			5) Ensure ample supply of cleaning consumables.
			6) All members of staff are required to always have a radio with them if they require support.
			7) Lunch times will be split into 2 sittings to ensure social distancing.
			8) Staff will maintain social distancing when serving food.
			9) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.
Medical Room	Risk of pupils / staff	Staff,	These control measures are in to work alongside the First Aid & Health Care Policy.
	contracting COVID19	Pupils,	1) Display up-to-date posters encouraging regular and proper handwashing throughout the
	- Contamination.	visitors	school.
			 Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray, high alcohol content device wipes located in each room in use.
			3) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched
			surfaces.
			4) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.
			5) Staff supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE (FACE COVERINGs, gloves, aprons, etc) to support with first aid and medication administration.
			6) Staff supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE, located in the medical room, before
			entering when used as an isolation room to take a suspected symptomatic individual's
			temperature.
			7) If exhibiting symptoms, the individual is to remain in the isolation room, SLT are alerted of symptoms and arrangements are made for the individual to leave the site, self-isolate for at
			10 days from when the symptoms started, arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID- 19.
			8) Ensure the room is thoroughly cleaned using disinfectant and disposable cloths, and well ventilated after an individual has entered and used this room.
1:1 Poom	Dick of pubils / stoff	Ctaff	
1:1 Room – now	Risk of pupils / staff	Staff,	1) Display up-to-date posters on door: Isolation Room. Do not enter unless exhibiting COVID-
being used as the COVID-19	contracting COVID19 -Contamination	Pupils,	19 symptoms.
Assessment Room	-contamination	visitors	2) All PPE worn is to be removed, placed in a bin liner, double bagged and left for 72 hours
			before being taken to the bin shed.
for people			3) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched
displaying			surfaces.
symptoms.			4) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 8 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

			5) COVID-19 Onsite LFT for Staff & Pupils TRS
Office Spaces	Risk of pupils and	Staff,	1) Display up-to-date posters encouraging regular and proper handwashing.
	staff contracting	pupils	2) Display posters on doors of offices for maximum capacity / waiting instructions.
	COVID19 from other		3) All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with
	pupils / colleagues /		them if they require support.
	others within the		4) Provide hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray and high alcohol content
	office environment.		device wipes within the office space.
			5) Phones and computers are to be cleaned routinely throughout the day.
			 Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.
			7) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.
			8) Face coverings must be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and
			pupils/learner in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt
Staff Room &	Risk of contracting	Staff,	1) All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with
Sensory Garden	COVID19 from	Pupils,	them they require support.
	surfaces within the	visitors	2) Two areas for preparing food and drinks. Hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant
	kitchen / canteen		spray, high alcohol content device wipes located in each room in use.
	facilities and overcrowding.		 Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.
			4) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.
Staff Hub	Risk of pupils and	Staff,	All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support
	staff contracting COVID19 from other	pupils	them if they require support.
	pupils / colleagues /		 Provide hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes/disinfectant spray and high alcohol content device wipes within the office space.
	others within the		3) Phones and computers are to be cleaned routinely throughout the day.
	office environment.		4) Ensure a strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to frequently touched
	office crivitoriment.		surfaces.
			5) Ensure areas are ventilated, opening windows and propping open doors wherever possible.
			6) Face coverings must be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and
			pupils/learner in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 9 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

Playground	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19 - Number of pupils Contamination	Staff, pupils	 All members of staff when working from school are required to always have a radio with them if they require support. Playgrounds to be cleaned routinely throughout the day. Focus to be on handles as well as metal & plastic surfaces being cleaned with anti-bacterial spray.
			 Any equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between group use. Equipment must not be shared with other groups at the same time.
Trips & outings in the community with Pupils and Learners	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils, colleagues, or others within the	Staff, Pupils	 Using the school minibus, all staff & pupils must continue wearing face coverings and adhere to, social distance where possible. Windows should be opened in the minibus for fresh air and good ventilation. Walking during trips and outings, maintain social distancing and wear face coverings when
	teaching & learning environment.		 entering buildings. 3) Take spare disposable masks, gloves and aprons for first aid and if COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited. 4) Sanitising and washing hands frequently throughout the day.
			 If someone gets symptoms – contact the school immediately, place the pupil in an area with no direct contact with others, with ventilation, until the school are able to arrange for the person to get collected.
Use of toilets and bathrooms	Risk of pupils / staff contracting COVID19	Staff, Pupils,	 Ensure strict and regular bathroom cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces people can touch.
	from surfaces within toilet / bathroom facilities.	visitors	 Ensure regular emptying and replacement of sanitary-related disposal units. Ensure ample supply of bathroom consumables and cleaning consumables. Ensure very good supplies of soap to support and encourage good handwashing practice. Ensure that posters, specifically promoting handwashing are displayed prominently in all toilets and bathrooms. Face coverings must be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and
Physical Intervention	Risk of contracting COVID19 from pupils or staff whilst being in sustained physical intervention	Staff, Pupils	 pupils/learner in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt Continue to implement all established practise around P.I being a last resort - all proactive strategies are in place (including use of known distractors and preferred items) to minimise risk of needing to use physical intervention Ensure staff who are attending an escalation adhere to PPE guidance (e.g.) Their choice to wear a gloves If P.I looks to be sustained then escort to soft play, then arrange deep clean.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 10 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

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			4) Staff who attend escalations may choose to bring a change of clothes to school.
			5) Consider using visor if pupils might spit, if and only if appropriate.
Food	Risk of contracting	Staff,	1) Ensure that staff supporting pupils and learners during mealtimes or food-related learning
Management	COVID19 from pupils	Pupils,	activities are supplied with adequate and appropriate PPE and wash their hands regularly.
	or staff whilst	visitors	2) Remove / rearrange furniture if practical and possible to ensure adequate space is allowed
	working with food		between pupils and learning activities.
	and during		3) Ensure that food is not left out and / or exposed for extended periods. Unfinished food
	mealtimes.		should be promptly discarded.
			4) Not allow the sharing of food between pupils, learners and the staff supporting them.
Cleaning of school	Risk of contracting	Cleaners,	These control measures are in addition to the Coalo Risk Assessment
	COVID19 from	Staff,	 Ensure Cleaning team are included in communicating the risk assessment.
	surfaces, infecting	Pupils,	2) Cleaning company, Coalo, supply their cleaners with appropriate PPE to safely undertake
	others by not	Visitors	their cleaning regime.
	cleaning using		3) All chemicals used are updated with COSHH data sheets and risk assessments.
	appropriate		4) Standard cleaning regime continues between 4:15-6:15am of whole school.
	chemicals and PPE		5) Daily cleaning of touch points around the building will be carried out between 10am-2pm
			following COVID-19 site specification.
Visitors &	Risk of contracting	Staff,	1) Severely restrict external visitors from entering the education settings. Any and all visitors
Contractors on	COVID19 from	Pupils,	must have a critical reason for entering the building.
site	pupils, staff, visitors	visitors	2) Restrict contractor attendance to critical and compliance-related work only, ensuring that
	or contractors.		said work is undertaken over weekends or after hours where at all possible
			3) All visitors and contractors must sign in at Reception using the Inventry software.
			4) Visitors and contractors are expected to maintain social distancing measures within the
			building wherever practicable.
			5) Visitors and contractors are to use the visitor toilet located in the foyer area only.
			6) Visitors and contractors are only able to work on site if they have the required PPE. If they
			do not, they will be provided with gloves and Face coverings wherever possible.
			7) All contractors on site must have completed a AaAST Permit to Work.
			8) Contractors and visitors to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, toilets
			always
Development of	Risk of infecting	Staff,	1) The Rise will instigate its start of term testing for CHYP as it did in the last academic year
symptoms or	colleagues / pupils /	Pupils,	and thereafter pupils will be encouraged to test from home, just like staff. AC and THS
		visitors	continue to have very low numbers of CHYP who are testing.

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 11 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

contracting COVID19.	learners with COVID19.	 If anyone exhibits symptoms, they are to alert the SLT immediately and be taken to the isolation room. Guidance and procedures in place within AaA for staff to manage the onset of suspected symptoms, or indeed contracting COVD19. https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/ Guidance around testing for COVID19. https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/SitePages/Coronavirus-testing.aspx School must follow the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance. Where the pupil, or staff member tests negative, they can return to the school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the pupil, or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the pupil, or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
Development of negative mental health symptoms		PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC "SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF" RISK ASSESSMENT
Staff may have questions around COVID-19 or AaA Management or procedures around COVID		PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC "SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF" RISK ASSESSMENT

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 12 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022

New strain of COVID-19, identified in December 2021, a new faster transmissible strain of COVID-19 called Omicron. At this stage further advice is still to be confirmed by the GOV.	All Staff and Pupils and learners	Staff, Pupils, visitors	 Introduction of weekly testing in schools and colleges from January 2021, AaA are following the new guidance, which is set out in the guidance below. Asymptomatic Testing A separate risk assessment is in place for this activity and can be found at COVID19 Testing TRS.doc All CEV Staff in will have had their personal risk assessments reviewed before returning to the school after easter term. All CV staff will have their RA updated and shared with them before returning to working in the School. Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 AaA have implemented twice weekly home testing programme, specific plan can be found here TRS Service Testing Planning Summary - March 2021.docx (sharepoint.com)
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Additional, related Risk assessments.

Should parties outside of Ambitious About Autism or Ambitious About Autism School Trust require copies of additional Risk Assessments to which this Risk Assessment relates, please request this from Justin Davies, Health and Safety Manager, jdavies@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Leigh-Anne Sullivan / Mark Dixon

School Business Manager / Head of Property & IT Version 1.14 updated 25/08/21 Mark Dixon

Initial Risk Assessment done: 15 May 2020 by Leigh-Anne Sullivan

Review date: 4th March 2022 Last updated: 4th February 2022 Links last checked: 4th February 2022

Title:	Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) Risk Assessment	Page:	Page 13 of 13
Issue Date:	20 May 2020	Review Date:	04/03/2022