

Addendum to Version 8 Coronavirus Risk Assessment (Primary/Nursery settings) with effect from 17 May 2021.

(To be appended to all Version 8 Primary and Nursery/pre-school Coronavirus Risk Assessments)

Rationale

In essence, these changes to the Coronavirus Risk Assessment are designed to allow greater use of external play resources in primary schools and nurseries in order to improve access to play based learning and support improved physical activity. A significant amount of external fixed play equipment is constructed from natural wood products which will naturally 'self clean' when outside, meaning risk from coronavirus being transmitted via such products is reduced. Consulting Government guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms, the guidance states that, '*Scientific advice suggests that the virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces, particularly when indoors. These risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain.*' Although the control measures relating to the use of external play equipment are to be eased, there will remain a requirement for retaining control measures for some specific equipment and materials used in its construction. Settings should note that the requirement to clean/fog most small movable play resources used between bubbles remains.

Additionally, there is a growing need to allow small assemblies to commence, comprising numbers larger than a single class. It is therefore proposed to allow two classes to attend an assembly together, but separated by at least 2m within the assembly area. Such assemblies must be held in a hall/venue that is sufficiently large to allow for proper separation and well ventilated.

Safety Representatives must be consulted on any proposed changes and staff and students must be fully briefed prior to their implementation. Schools are to be aware that if there are increased numbers of coronavirus cases that occur as a result of these changes, it may be necessary to revert to previous control measures.

continued overleaf

Changes:

Review period/date

Omit:

To be reviewed in May 2021

Insert:

To be reviewed as a result of change to Government guidance

General site management, access/egress and movement in and around the school.

Harm to all occupants from direct and indirect contact with Covid-19

Omit:

Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames can be used but must be cleaned frequently. Cleaning must take place between bubbles if different bubbles use the equipment.

Insert:

Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames can be used by different groups but specific equipment and materials used in their construction that are touched frequently must be cleaned frequently. These are:

- Plastic or metal, slides, monkey bars and climbing frames
- Semi enclosed playhouses or huts for small children
- Enclosed crawl through 'tunnels' or tube slides

Omit:

Areas of artificial turf can be used, but must be cleaned where appropriate. If such areas are used as play areas for small children, they must be cleaned between bubbles and after use. This can be achieved using a spray and brush method using a disinfectant cleaner that kills 99.9% of bacteria and viruses. Do not allow the area to be used until the area has dried. If artificial turf areas are used for general sport it will not be necessary to clean these surfaces.

Insert:

Areas of artificial turf can be used, but where such areas are used internally (or under canopies) they must be cleaned where appropriate. If such areas are used internally, or under canopies, as play areas for small children, they must be cleaned between bubbles and after use. This can be achieved by fogging internal areas and cleaning using a spray and brush method where under canopies. Do not allow such area to be used until the area has dried. External areas of artificial turf, either for play or for general sport it will not need to be cleaned.

Omit:

Groups should be kept apart, meaning that schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group.

Insert:

Groups should be kept apart, but assemblies of up to two classes may take place with the classes separated by at least 2m within the assembly area. Venues are to be sufficiently large to allow for proper separation and are to be well ventilated before, during and after use.

Classrooms and pupils in all year groups

Harm to pupils and staff from indirect contact with Covid-19

Omit:

Equipment and facilities should not be used by different groups unless it has been cleaned between groups, or has been left for 72 hours after use.

Insert:

Movable play equipment, or classroom equipment should not be used by different groups unless it has been cleaned between groups, or has been left for 72 hours after use.

Omit:

Gravel boxes, sand boxes, or sand pits should not be used unless they can be cleaned and the gravel/sand can be replaced, or left for 48 hours between the use of different groups.

Insert:

Gravel boxes, sand boxes, or sand pits can be used without the need for frequent cleaning.