

Ambitious About Autism
Risk Assessment – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Risk Assessment for Bernie Grant Arts Centre Supported Internship Base Room

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. This risk assessment covers a specific AaA setting – The Bernie Grant Base Room - and any person entering that setting, regardless of whether they are a pupil, parent or guardian, member of staff, volunteer, partner, visitor or contractor.

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

AaA recognises that some staff are classified as 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 ASSESSMENT MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERIC ‘SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF’ RISK ASSESSMENT

(*Please see footnote on final page of this document)

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS REVIEWED ON MONTHLY AND WILL CAPTURE ANY ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY AS THEY ARISE.

1.0 Background

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus may include a fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The UK government is updating the official symptoms periodically, as more is learned about the disease.

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. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

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.

In mid-September of this year, epidemiologists identified new coronavirus variants (or strains) that was markedly different from all the others. The Kent & South African strains have appeared throughout the U.K. By December, British health officials were concerned by how quickly it had spread, and a series of stringent lockdown and travel bans were put into effect. These lockdown measures (tier 4) effect all the venues with AaA.

A vaccination programme for all staff was introduced in February 2021, all front-line staff will be given the opportunity to have the first COVID vaccination by the end of FEB 21

AaA will be following new government guidance on home testing & rapid flow testing for bubbles of School pupils and staff. Please refer to home testing risk assessment

2.0 Latest Information

The links below provides the very latest information from the NHS and UK government websites.

NHS General COVID-19 Guidance

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/about-covid-19/>

NHS COVID-19 Symptoms

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/community-social-care-ambulance/symptoms-of-covid-19-and-medical-advice/>

3.0 Risk Assessment

Activity / Area Hazard Description	Risk Identified	Persons at Risk	Control Measures (Mitigating actions and measures taken by AaA)
Bernie Grant Arts Centre Entrance Area, Corridors and Circulation Spaces	Risk of contracting COVID-19 - Overcrowding in entrance and circulation areas	All Bernie Grant-based AAA staff & learners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Manage learners entering and exiting the building in such a way as to not allow large groups to enter / leave and learners and staff should only move within the building when the corridors are clear and free. 2) Staff of our Schools and colleges to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, toilets, etc. Please refer to the Coronavirus information hub, face coverings information for staff page for further information.
Base Room Based Work	Risk of contracting COVID-19 from staff or others within the base room	All Bernie Grant-based AAA staff & learners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure general social distancing (maintaining 1m+ distance between people as per government guidelines), when possible. 2) Display up-to-date posters within the room encouraging social distancing. 3) Display up-to-date posters within the room encouraging regular and proper handwashing. 4) Use tape where possible and appropriate to demarcate zones to encourage and reinforce social distancing. 5) Physically, remove chairs and extraneous furniture to ensure adequate space is allowed between desks. 6) Provide antibacterial wipes within the room for users to wipe down desks and computers after use. 7) Use signage near the entrance to the room to reinforce the importance of social distancing. 8) Ensure strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces and computer equipment. 9) Use disposable cutlery / crockery / cups within the BGAC base room tea-point area.
Development of symptoms or contracting COVID-19	Risk of infecting staff or others with COVID-19	All staff / volunteers / visitors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Guidance and procedures in place within AaA for staff to manage the onset of suspected symptoms, or indeed contracting COVID-19. https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/

			<p>2) If a pupil, or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Household members should self-isolate for 10 days. All staff and pupils who are attending an education setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.</p> <p>3) College 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 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.</p> <p>4) As part of the national test and trace program, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise the college and other settings on the most appropriate action. In some cases, a larger number of other children or young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site, or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.</p>
Work experience activity	Risk of contracting COVID-19 from staff or others within work-experience environments		<p>1) <i>The activity within the work experience environments is so specific to individual learners that it falls outside of this risk assessment. If and when our learners are placed within a work-experience environment, the education based risk assessment for that placement MUST contain a section on COVID-19 specifically and ensure that this particular risk is specifically assessed, in addition to the risk already identified and assessed for the current work taking place.</i></p>
Development of negative mental health symptoms	Risk of developing negative mental health symptoms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic	All staff working with pupils or learners	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-19	Risk of staff not being able to find the information they require	All staff working with pupils or learners	PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC 'SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF' RISK ASSESSMENT
New strain of COVID-19, identified in December 2020, a new faster transmissible strain of covid19	All staff and Pupils and learners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of mass testing in schools and colleges from January 2021, AaA are following the new guidance, which is set out in the guidance below https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings • AaA implemented a roll out of vaccinations for staff in Feb 2021, 2nd Jabs are planned for late April/early May • AaA plan to implement home testing from week beginning 08/03/2021, see risk assessment

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 Mark Dixon, Head of Property & IT, mdixon@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Mark Dixon

Head of Property & IT

Version 1.3

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