

**Ambitious About Autism**  
**Risk Assessment – Coronavirus (COVID-19)**  
**Risk Assessment for Whittington Supported Internship Base Room**  
Magdala Ave, London N19 5NF

## **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 – Whittington Supported Internship Base Room - and any person entering that setting, regardless of whether they are a learner, parent or guardian, member of staff, volunteer, partner, visitor or contractor.

Separate risk assessments have been drawn up for specific groups of staff and learners. 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 MONTHLY AND WILL CAPTURE ANY ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY AS THEY ARISE.**

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## 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

COVID Response plan Spring 2021 – AaA will be following Government guidance on the lifting of restrictions and the four-step roadmap out of lockdown. Site & Staff risk assessments will be reviewed to decide which activities can restart and which control measures can be removed.

## 1.0 Latest Information

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

**COVID-19 Response plan – Spring 2021** [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#)

**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/>

## 2.0 Risk Assessment

| Activity / Area<br>Hazard<br>Description     | Risk Identified   | Persons at<br>Risk                                      | Control Measures<br>(Mitigating actions and measures taken by AaA)   |
|--|---|---|--|
| Old Nurses Home<br>Main Entrance &<br>Stairs | Risk of contracting<br>COVID-19 -<br>Overcrowding in<br>entrance area and<br>stairs | All<br>Whittington<br>-based AAA<br>staff &<br>learners | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Staff and learners are not currently active at The Whittington, so there is currently no risk.</li> </ol> <p>When learners / staff return:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) Risk Assess the return fully.</li> <li>3) Manage entering and exiting the building in such a way as to not allow large groups to enter / leave and staff should only move within the building when stairs and corridors are free.</li> </ol>  |
| Base Room Based<br>Work                      | Risk of contracting<br>COVID-19 from<br>colleagues / others<br>within the base room | All<br>Whittington<br>-based AAA<br>Staff &<br>Learners | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Staff are returning to work at The Whittington</li> <li>2) Ensure general social distancing (maintaining 1m+ distance between people as per government guidelines), when possible.</li> <li>3) Display up-to-date posters within the room encouraging social distancing.</li> <li>4) Display up-to-date posters within the room encouraging regular and proper handwashing.</li> <li>5) Use tape where possible and appropriate to demarcate zones to encourage and reinforce social distancing.</li> <li>6) Physically, remove chairs to ensure adequate space is allowed between desks.</li> <li>7) Provide antibacterial wipes within the room for users to wipe down desks and computers after use.</li> <li>8) Use signage near the entrance to the room to reinforce the importance of social distancing.</li> <li>9) Ensure strict and regular cleaning regime, with particular attention to surfaces and computer equipment.</li> <li>10) Keep the room well ventilated, keep windows open where possible.</li> <li>11) Where Face coverings when in communal areas</li> </ol> |

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| Development of symptoms or contracting COVID-19 | Risk of infecting colleagues / others with COVID-19 | All staff / volunteers / visitors | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Guidance and procedures in place within AaA for staff to manage the onset of suspected symptoms, or indeed contracting COVID-19.<br/><a href="https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/">https://ambitiousaboutautism.sharepoint.com/sites/CoronaVirus/</a></li> <li>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. Their fellow 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.</li> <li>3) College must follow the <a href="#">COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance</a>. Where If an individual tests negative, they can return to school and the household may end their self-isolation.</li> <li>4) If an individual tests positive, the class or bubble must be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days.</li> <li>5) As part of the national test and trace program, if other cases are detected within the cohort or setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise the most appropriate course of action. In some cases, a larger number of other children or young people may be asked to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.</li> <li>6) Introduction of weekly testing in schools and colleges from January 2021, AaA are following the new guidance, which is set out,</li> <li>7) <a href="#">asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All CEV Staff in will have had their personal risk assessments reviewed before returning to the school after easter term.</li> <li>• All CV staff will have their RA updated and shared with them before returning to working in the School.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19</a></li> </ul> </li> </ol> |
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| Working within the hospital space  | Risk of contracting COVID-19 from colleagues / others within the hospital                |   | 1) The activity within the hospital is so specific to our learners that it falls outside of this risk assessment. All education-based risk assessment MUST now contain a section on COVID-19 specifically and ensure that this particular risk is specifically assessed. |
| 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 | <b>PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC 'SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF' RISK ASSESSMENT</b>  |
| 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 | <b>PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERIC 'SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STAFF' RISK ASSESSMENT</b>  |

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](mailto:mdixon@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

**Mark Dixon**

Head of Property & IT

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