



Coronavirus

Dealing with possible cases of Coronavirus

Written in line with current advice from The Department for Education publication

'Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'

Available at :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Contingency framework: education and childcare settings

Available at :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

To minimise the risk of children attending and staff from contracting Coronavirus the following control measures will be in place :

Ensure good hygiene for everyone – provision of tissues and bins, handwashing facilities, ensuring children wash their hands before and after eating and using the toilet. We promote and teach the children to 'catch it, bin it , kill it' – Catch a cough/sneeze in a tissue and put it in the bin to kill the germs and then wash their hands. Hand sanitiser is provided for staff, who also follow the above. Children to wash their hands when they enter, throughout the session and before they leave.

Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – The kitchen, toilets and tables/unit tops to be cleaned by cleaner before children arrive. During the day – Toilets are cleaned in the morning and afternoon. Tables are cleaned before and after snacks, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. Floors are swept/hoovered and mopped after eating and at the end of the day before children children arrive. All equipment and resources used on that day are sprayed and wiped and are thoroughly cleaned. Any toys that have been in a child's mouth will be removed and returned when disinfected. Frequently touched areas such as the cloakroom, cupboards, doorframes etc will be cleaned at least twice a day. The outdoor equipment will be sprayed at the end of the day with disinfectant.

Keep spaces well ventilated – all available windows are to be kept opened. When children are outside the side door remains open. For safety this is closed at other times such as lunch, group time.

Visitors- Visitors will be asked to sign a covid declaration form to minimise the risk of covid.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19- Management will keep up to date with any updates and work with different with agencies in the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus in a member staff or child.

In addition to the above staff will carry out Lateral flow home tests twice weekly unless they have symptoms of coronavirus then they will isolate and arrange a PCR test. The lateral flow tests are only



suitable for children over 12 years old and adults . They are only to be used if the person taking them has NO symptoms of coronavirus. Anyone with symptoms should arrange a PCR test.

By the end of September 2021 all staff will be double vaccinated against coronavirus.

Attendance :

Children or staff are not permitted to attend nursery if they present with symptoms of coronavirus as defined by UK government as :

- new continuous cough -this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) or
- high temperature – defined by the NHS as over 38C
- Loss or change of taste/smell

Anyone experiencing any of the above symptoms will be required to arrange a PCR test, contact the nursery as soon as possible and stay away from nursery and follow the isolation procedure as defined by government :

Available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If a child becomes ill with symptoms whilst at nursery the following procedure will be carried out :

The child will be separated from others and looked after by 1 member of staff in the office. The adult will put on – Disposable gloves, A face covering and a disposable apron .

The child's parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. Advice will be given to the parent regarding self-isolation and testing procedures. The foyer and area where the child has been will be deep cleaned immediately after the child has left the setting.

The whole of the setting will be deep cleaned at the end of the day in addition to our increased cleaning schedule throughout the remainder of the day.

The staff member will dispose of the apron and gloves and change their clothing.

If a member of staff becomes ill with symptoms whilst at nursery the following procedure will be carried out:

The staff member will be asked to collect their belongings and to leave the premises as soon as possible. This may mean a short wait to allow time for management to ensure there are sufficient adults to care safely for the children. In this instance the staff member will be asked to isolate in the staff toilet area.

Advice will be given to the member of staff regarding self-isolation and testing procedures. The area where the staff member has been waiting will be deep cleaned immediately after the staff member has left the setting.

The whole of the setting will be deep cleaned at the end of the day in addition to our increased cleaning schedule throughout the remainder of the day.



To ensure the safety of all children and staff we are requiring anyone who has symptoms to arrange a PCR for Coronavirus.

To access testing please go to :

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If the child or member of staff tests negative to the PCR test they can resume coming to nursery as long as they are well within themselves.

If a child or staff member has tested positive, we are requesting confirmation of the results so that we can keep a record in the event of any further cases.

If the child or member of staff tests Positive to the PCR test they must follow government guidelines of isolating and must not attend nursery

We are required to notify Ofsted (Office for standards in education) of any positive cases of coronavirus from either staff or children.

Advice on isolation periods can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We follow our 'Outbreak' plan as follows:

In the event of the above thresholds being reached (confirmed by PCR tests) we will review and reinforce our existing testing, ventilation and hygiene measures. This may include but is not limited to the re-introduction of face coverings when dropping off/collecting children and when on school grounds, the use of an external cleaning company, spending more time outdoors, serving snacks to the children rather than the children choosing, increased supervision on handwashing, removal of equipment that cannot be cleaned easily eg fabrics, cushions.

Additional public health advice will be sought by contacting the Department of education helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1)

Staffing

If the outbreak is because of staff testing positive with a PCR test, the manager will look at the number of staff required for each session – morning and afternoon. If there are enough remaining staff ,that are not affected, to meet the adult to child ratios then the nursery will operate as normal. If there are not enough staff to safely care for the children then the manager will contact all families to offer alternative session where there is enough staff. If we are unable to do this then nursery will be closed.

Children



If the outbreak is amongst children in the setting we will work closely with all of the relevant authorities and be advised by them. In the first instance a deep clean of the setting will take place. All parents will be notified of confirmed cases. No names will be given. All staff will book and undertake a PCR test. Staff that are double vaccinated will not be required to isolate but will be encouraged to limit social contact as much as possible whilst awaiting the results of the PCR test.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if they develop symptoms or there is a positive case of coronavirus in their household.

Community

If we are advised of an increased amount of coronavirus cases within the community we will be advised by the local health protection authority.

Isolation

Current government advice is that children under 18 years old and adults that have been double vaccinated do not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus. This would mean that if a child/ staff member at playgroup tested positive for coronavirus, the other children as they are under 18 and staff (those who are double vaccinated) do not have to isolate and we will not have to close as we did previously. All families will be notified of any case of coronavirus, and it will be the choice of the parent/carer if you wish your child to continue attending. If you decide not to send your child in, your child's place will be secured.

If **someone in your household** has tested positive for coronavirus, your child can still attend nursery but if they show any signs of symptoms, then they will have to self isolate and carry out a PCR test. This decision has been made to further protect staff and other children and their families and to try and prevent any possible spread of infection in the nurser or the wider community.

Travelling from abroad

Children and staff travelling from abroad All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to government travel advice in travel to England from another country during coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into the setting if they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine or they are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19). If anyone in your setting develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice. For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. If a child is awaiting collection, appropriate PPE should be used if close contact is necessary. Further information on this can be found in use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left. The household (including any siblings) should follow UKHSA's stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Outbreaks



An outbreak is defined by The Department of Education of whichever of the following thresholds below is met first :

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
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We follow our 'Outbreak' plan as follows:

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Additional public health advice will be sought by contacting the Department of education helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1)

Staffing

If the outbreak is because of staff testing positive with a PCR test or being in close contact with a positive case , the manager will look at the number of staff required for each session – morning and afternoon .If there are enough remaining staff ,that are not affected, to meet the adult to child ratios then the nursery will operate as normal. If there are not enough staff to safely care for the children then the manager will contact all families to offer alternative sessions where there is enough staff. If we are unable to do this we will try to arrange additional staffing from an outside source . At this point we will prioritise children attending to those defined as vulnerable by the Department of Education:

- those with a social worker
- those with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- a group of children considered locally, including by settings and local authorities, to be 'otherwise vulnerable'

- children known to children's social care services in the past
- children whose home circumstances might be particularly challenging because of domestic abuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction

Children that meet the above criteria will be able to attend nursery if there are enough staff to care for them .



After the children prioritised above we will aim to remain open for the following groups of children in this order:

- Children with Special educational needs
- Children of `critical workers ` as defined by government at :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

updated 2 January 2022

- Children in receipt of 2 year old funding
- Children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium

In the event that there is not enough staff and we cannot use staff from outside sources we will be forced to close temporarily until we can operate safely .

Children

If the outbreak is amongst children in the setting we will work closely with all of the relevant authorities and be advised by them. In the first instance a deep clean of the setting will take place. All parents will be notified of confirmed cases. No names will be given. All staff that have been in contact with a child who is positive will undertake daily Lateral flow testing. As all staff that are double vaccinated will not be required to isolate unless they present with symptoms.

Children under 5 are not required to take daily Lateral flow tests. Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if they develop symptoms or there is a positive case of coronavirus in their household.

Community

If we are advised of an increased amount of coronavirus cases within the community we will be advised by the local health protection authority and share any information with you.

Updated: January 2022