

## COVID-19 Policy

The health and well-being of our families and staff are our highest priority. In the interest of limiting the opportunity for transmission we are taking the following precautionary measures:

Your household **must remain out of the pre-school** if any member of your household, including any visitors to your house such as caregivers, home health workers, cleaners etc has (or has been in close contact with anyone who has):

- A suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19
- Travelled internationally

Your household may return **14 days after the last potential exposure** provided:

At least 10 days have passed since any household member first experienced symptoms and the household has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Should you or any member of your household experience any of the following symptoms, we ask you to remain out of pre-school and **notify us as soon as possible**:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- difficulty breathing

Staff will notify parents if they or anyone in their household becomes unwell with any of the stated symptoms.

Staff will notify parents if any other child in their allocated group becomes unwell with any of the stated symptoms.

**Please note, if your child has taken Calpol they may not attend pre-school that day as it may mask any signs of fever.**

Children must be able to separate from their parent independently as parents will not be allowed inside the building and won't be able to settle them. Staff will be unable to approach parents to physically support the time to say goodbye. If you feel your child will be unable to manage these new routines, please consider carefully whether it would be right to send them back at this time.

Children will be placed in two small groups, one in each room where the door will remain closed.. They will be unable to leave their allocated classroom to mix with the other group and outside play will be taken in turns by each group.

### **Illness during a preschool sessions**

If a child becomes unwell with any of the symptoms above we will contact their parent/carer immediately and ask that you collect them as soon as possible, but within 1 hour. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact numbers.

Whilst awaiting collection, your child will be moved outside to the large playing field within the school gates if the weather permits, or else to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with a window open for ventilation. There will be one member of staff with them at all times to supervise.

At this point the staff member will be required to wear PPE (gloves and mask) and will reassure the child as this may well be strange and worrying to them. **Children will not be required to wear PPE at any time** as this may increase the risk of transmission as they may not be able to handle them as directed.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate cloakroom which will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they will not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They will wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

## **Cleaning**

- cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
- wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
- if an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

**The selection of toys available each session will be limited to ensure that they can be regularly and thoroughly cleaned after each use. Resources that cannot be easily cleaned will not be available, eg sand, paint, soft toys, dressing up etc**

## **Further guidance on cleaning after suspected case of COVID-19**

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, and telephones.

Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and nappy bins, following one of the options below:

- use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine, or
- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants, or
- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses

Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below. (Waste)

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.

Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.

### **Laundry**

Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items.

Do not shake dirty laundry, this minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

### **Waste**

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues):

1. Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
3. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

Waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. You should not put any waste in communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

- if the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste
- if the individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste

### **Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks**

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is **not** recommended. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home.

### **Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people**

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school or college, and they will continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) and including those who are pregnant, can attend.