



Illness and infectious diseases Policy

It is our policy to keep children safe while they are in our care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within our childcare setting and while we are off site.

We follow the requirements laid out in the EYFS framework and in any Department for Education guidance or guidance on local outbreaks.

Procedures

In order to protect others who use our service, we require parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/household. We will share updates about our own family's health with parents/carers.

We expect all parents/carers to take necessary steps and follow Government guidance to prevent the spread of any infection. In addition, we will comply with this guidance to ensure the safety of our own family and those who access our childcare service. Failure to comply with Government guidance may result in termination of the contract.

Illnesses- Respiratory illnesses including COVID 19 and other illnesses (including sickness and diarrhoea)

If a child in the setting becomes ill whilst in our care, or whom we believe has an infectious illness or disease (including COVID 19) we will;

- Keep the child away from the other children
- Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
- Ensure the child is excluded from the setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with Health Authority guidelines.

If we believe a child in our setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification we will inform the parents/guardians of our concerns and act on advice given by Public Health England (details are on [Guidance on infection control in childcare settings](#)). We will also inform Ofsted of any action taken.

We make parents aware of our sickness exclusion policy and keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in our setting.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents we expect to be paid for the child's place even if they are excluded from the setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

We will inform the parents of the other children in the setting if a child we care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

Hygiene

Hygiene procedures are important at all times but particularly due to COVID 19. In the setting we take the following measures to help prevent germs spreading:

- Carry tissues with us at all times and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. We will bin the tissue, and wash our hands, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel.
- Wash our hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Display posters that show good hygiene and hand washing practice
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- When outside the setting, keep socially distanced at all times

We ensure all adults and children in the setting are aware of good hand-washing procedures and respiratory hygiene and support them to carry out these procedures in line with Government guidance.

We ensure there is a supply of tissues and hand gel available for children to use when required, and we also help children to learn how to catch their sneezes and coughs.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations, e.g. sudden onset of illness which involves bodily fluids (vomit, diarrhoea), if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID 19 while in the setting.

COVID 19-

After the change in government guidance according to the “Living with COVID plan”, as a childcare setting we are advised that from 1st April 2022 we treat COVID 19 as a contagious respiratory illness. We will continue to take appropriate measures to protect the children in the setting, the families and our families.

We are following the guidance in <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>. We ask parents to read guidance and be aware of the symptoms stated in it.

We ask parents if their child or anyone in their household is identified as high risk to let us know and follow guidance in this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk>

PETS-

We ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk. All pets are regularly vaccinated and up to date with worming and flea treatment.

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Date policy was written	03/01/2025
This policy is due for review on the following date	03/01/2026

This policy supports the following EYFS requirements:

England

Meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

Health, Medicines