

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy **Updated April 2022**

This policy provides guidance to help our setting address current issues regarding coronavirus. This is a fast paced and evolving situation so this guidance will be subject to regular updates to reflect the latest advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Government and the Local Authority.

Employees with flu-like/covid-19 symptoms

Staff must remain at home if they are unwell or have a high temperature.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) in adults can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

If a member of staff has any of these symptoms, they will be asked to remain at home and avoid contact with other people if they have a high temperature.

Employees can return to normal duties as soon as they feel well again and do not have a high temperature for **24 hours** prior to return. Staff must remain off work for a period of 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and diarrhoea as stated in our sickness policy.

Employees with family and/or friend(s) that have been diagnosed with coronavirus

If an employee is known to have been exposed to someone that has been a confirmed case of coronavirus, they will be able to attend work as usual if they have had both vaccinations over 14 days before the contact.

Employees returning to work following coronavirus diagnosis

Employees should use their normal absence reporting procedures to report their absence from work. Absence from work will be treated as sickness absence. Employees will receive sick pay in line with their contract of employment/sick pay arrangements.

Children and staff returning to preschool

Children will be welcomed back to preschool and parents will be informed of the new procedures via email or phone call. Children will no longer be in separate 'bubbles' and the staff and nursery can run as normal. LFT testing will no longer continue from 1st April 2022.

Resources will not be minimised and all restrictions on tactile play have been removed. The wellbeing of the children is our priority following these times and as we move forward into the future months, all staff shall work to support children's confidence and happiness, using play as the catalyst in which to do this. Families can seek support through nursery staff and management at any time and sources of support can be signposted, including bereavement support. Home visits will recommence for new starters, and opportunities to discuss the impact of lockdown on children and the family will be paramount during these visits.

Children who have symptoms of or who have tested positive for Covid 19

From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be **three days**.

Children will not be sent home from preschool unless they are feeling unwell, are sick, have diarrhoea or a high temperature.

Children who have a high temperature must remain at home **and not return until 24 hours** after the temperature subsides. We ask that you do not give your child calpol before they come into preschool.

Children and young people aged 18 and under can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but it's usually a mild illness and most get better in a few days. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu. Children must remain home whilst they feel unwell. They can return when their symptoms improve. If your child does have sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must **remain at home for 48 hours** after the last bout as stated in our sickness policy.

If you are worried about your child's symptoms, call the NHS helpline on 111.

Management plan

Some restrictions could be reintroduced if an outbreak occurs within the nursery. This will occur if we are asked to take extra measures to break a chain of infection. Children will be grouped according to key worker families, children with additional needs and vulnerable status. The manager or administrator will inform parents and carers as soon as is possible when capacity for attendance drops via phone call and email as well as social media.

Parents will receive a copy of the management plan and a record of all key children, children with additional needs and vulnerable children will be kept on site.

The management plan will be used when advised by public health.

Further guidance

April 1st 2022

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/30/living-with-covid-the-end-of-routine-testing-in-schools-colleges-and-childcare-settings/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?dm_i=6L45,HZYE,1G0VRM,27621,1