

## **Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies**

### **Updated Procedures during Covid-19 Pandemic**

#### **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

#### **Policy statement**

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

#### **Covid-19 Pandemic**

**During this time, all shielding children and adults or those that are categorised as clinically vulnerable will remain at home, in line with guidance from Public Health England.**

#### **Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – we will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- **If a child is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms –**
  - **A high temperature – above 37.8 degrees**
  - **A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or having at least one coughing episode during their time at Kindergarten**

- **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal**
- **Parents will be called and need to collect their child in the hour from the designated ‘isolation’ area at the back of the building.**
- **The group leader (wearing full PPE) will wait with the child.**
- **The cleaning of the space will commence as soon as the potentially affected person has left the premises.**
- **Where it is suspected that a child has Covid-19, parents must book a test by calling 111.**
- **The whole group will remain at home until the result is known.**
- **If the test result is negative, the child and the rest of their ‘bubble’ can return to nursery.**
- **If the test result is positive, the whole ‘group will have to remain at home for a minimum of 14 days – longer if they develop symptoms in this time.**
- **We will not be allowing children / teachers with positive test results back after seven days, as they will not have a group to return to.**
- **If a member of a child’s household has any symptoms of Covid-19**
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- ~~The child's temperature is taken using an ear thermometer with disposable covers, kept in the first aid box.~~
- **The child’s temperature is taken with a ‘head’ thermometer, kept in the first aid box.**
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- We can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. (See Covid-19 symptoms).

- **We can refuse admittance to a child where members of their household have symptoms of Covid-19 (either children or adults).**
- **We can refuse a child who has not completed their 14 days of absence from Kindergarten due to either testing positive for Covid-19 or due to a child or teacher in their group testing positive for Covid-19.**
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for **48 hours** before returning to the setting / we will follow your GP's advice on when they are able to return to Kindergarten.
- After diarrhoea, we ask parents keep children home for **48 hours** following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- Our Illness and Exclusion policy contains a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is also obtainable from [https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

#### **Procedures for staff members displaying symptoms of Covid-19**

- **If a staff member is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at nursery, they will leave the nursery and arrange to be tested asap.**
- **The spaces they have been working in and any equipment with which they have come into contact, will be cleaned.**
- **Their group of children will be sent home until the result from testing is known.**
- **If the test result is negative, the teacher and the rest of their group can return to nursery.**
- **If the test is positive, the whole groups will have to remain at home for a minimum of 14 days – longer if they develop symptoms in this time.**

- We will not be allowing teachers / children with positive test results back after seven days, as they will not have a group to return to.
- If a member of staff's household has any symptoms of Covid-19, or a positive test result, the staff member will have to stay at home for 14 days. The staff member's group will need to remain at home for this time, unless there is staffing capacity to allocate another staff member to their group.

#### ***Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'***

- A record of any Covid-19 symptoms in staff or children will be reported to the local authority.
- For confirmed cases of a notifiable disease and Coronavirus the setting must contact their local Health Protection Team (HPT) as soon as possible for further guidance. The line manager will inform the owner/trustees/directors and retain a confidential record.
- Acting on the advice of the local HPT, the setting will either:
  - close for a set period and undertake a deep clean
  - carry on as usual but also undertake a deep clean
- If a notifiable disease is confirmed, staff must inform the line manager immediately and Ofsted must be informed within 14 days. Cases of confirmed Coronavirus should be treated as a notifiable disease.
- A deep clean is undertaken at the soonest opportunity following any illness outbreak. Hand hygiene messages are reinforced and staff are vigilant to any further signs of infection.
- The manager continues to liaise with the HPT as required and keeps a full record of children affected, how long they are away from the setting and the date on which they return.

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, we will inform Ofsted and contact Public Health England, and will act on any advice given.

### ***HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure***

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. We:

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

### ***Nits and head lice***

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

### ***Procedures for children with allergies***

- When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Emergency Details Form.

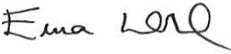
- If a child has an allergy, we complete a health care plan which is signed by the child's GP or health care practitioner, to detail the following:
  - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
  - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
  - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
  - Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
  - Review measures.
- This health care plan is kept in the child's personal file, the SEN file, and a copy is displayed where our staff can see it in the relevant classroom(s).
- No nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in to the building at any time.

### ***Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities***

- If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
- At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Oral medication:
  - Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's

instructions clearly written on them.

- We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
  - We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
  - must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to [our/my] insurance provider.
- Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:  
These include adrenaline injections (EpiPens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).
- We must have:
    - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
    - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing our staff to administer medication; and
    - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
- Key person for special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.:
- Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
  - The key person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.

This policy was adopted by	FRS Kindergarten	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	<u>1<sup>st</sup> June 2020</u>	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	<u>October 2020</u>	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	<u>Emma Wohl</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<u>Headteacher</u>	

## **North East and North Central London HPT**

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