



Coronavirus Policy

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education. The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. Step 4 of the roadmap, marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

To minimise infection and to protect, the Government has advised all settings to Ensure good hygiene for everyone, to maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, to keep occupied spaces well ventilated and to Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Covid-19 Guidance & Restrictions

- Children/adults 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). If staff develop symptoms after coming into close contact with someone that has symptoms, they should get a test whether or not the person they were in contact with tests positive
- Staff in settings who are clinically extremely vulnerable are to follow the same guidance as everyone else. Children who are extremely vulnerable are advised to attend the setting unless under strict paediatric care.
- All staff & children will be asked to wash their hands on entering the preschool.
- Children will be supported in an age-appropriate way to understand the importance of good hygiene e.g., encouraging regular handwashing especially after sneezing and coughing.
- A regular cleaning schedule will take place on a daily & weekly basis, washing then sterilising.
- All waste containing bodily fluids will be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner.
- Soft furnishings/resources will be laundered at a temperature of at least 40c.
- Malleable activities will be changed on a regular basis.
- PPE will be worn as usual for nappy changing, cleaning bodily fluids and first aid (*when appropriate*)
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- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:
 1. they are fully vaccinated.
 2. they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
 3. they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 4. they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Isolation: As of 14 December 2021, the following people can take a lateral flow test every day for seven days instead of isolating, if they have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of **any** variant of Covid-19 (including Omicron):

- fully vaccinated adults (i.e. those who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine)
- all children and young people aged between five year old to 18 years and six months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

The results of each lateral flow test should be reported through the [Online Reporting System](#). If an individual tests negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.

Under-fives who live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should still take a PCR test – though there remains no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting test results.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive. Individuals testing positive for Covid-19 can now end their self-isolation after seven days. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and the child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to their education setting from day 8.s, rather than 10, if they receive negative lateral flow test results on days 6 and 7 of self-isolation.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and six months who is not fully vaccinated (and not exempt from isolating for any of the reasons listed above) is still required to self-isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

The government has confirmed that children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 and do not need to isolate.

Any adult or child with suspected coronavirus or displaying any symptoms, however mild will be sent home and advised to follow public health advice. Staff will use appropriate PPE if close contact is necessary with any child who is waiting to be picked up.



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- Staff mental health and wellbeing will be supported on a 1:1 basis.
- face coverings are not required to be worn at pick-up or drop off, but public health advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas by visitors.
- Although not compulsory, staff are encouraged to test themselves for Covid-19 using LFT twice a week with a 3-4 day gap between testing.

Children can get coronavirus, but they seem to get it less often than adults and it's usually less serious. The main symptoms are:

- a high 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 sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

This policy was adopted by the chairman on behalf of the Pre-school on 5th January 2022

Signed on behalf of the Pre-school: (Chairperson)

This policy will be reviewed again by the beginning of March 2022. Every effort will be made to continuously review and monitor circumstances surrounding the coronavirus via daily management of the setting and government guidance.