



Illness and infection control policy - Reviewed annually

The statutory framework is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, 2021). You can find a copy of the EYFS 2021 here – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

EYFS requirement 3.45 states: *Providers 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.* This links to footnote 54: *Guidance on health protection in schools and other childcare facilities which sets out when and for how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice can be found at:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>.

Policy statement: all reasonably appropriate steps are taken to protect children from illness and infection.

Illness and infection control procedures include:

- Regularly cleaning and sterilising play areas, toys and other resources.
- Ensuring children are carefully monitored when using resources which may transfer infection such as sand, water and messy play including cooking and playdough.
- Providing tissues, a lidded bin and hand wipes for the children to use independently – monitoring children’s use and supporting hand washing after use.
- Teaching children to cough or sneeze into their elbows (like an elephant) and then wash their hands.
- Using good hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination.
- Teaching children to wash their hands regularly and effectively – please reinforce this at home.
- Dealing with bodily fluids safely.
- Keeping children safe around animals.
- Talking to children about health and safety, germs, viruses etc as appropriate for their ages and levels of understanding.

If a child falls ill parents will be asked to collect them as quickly as possible and keep them at home for the advised exclusion time including, for example –

- For diarrhoea and sickness - 48 hours after last bout.
- For coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms including colds and flu – until the child is better.
- When starting antibiotic treatment – 24 hours in case of allergic reaction.
- Following Public Health England* guidance for other common childhood illnesses.

Parents, please note that if your child is unable to participate in normal daily routines, is irritable, continuously crying or requires more attention than can be safely provided without impeding the health, safety and wellbeing of other children in the setting or is not well enough to attend other provisions such as school or nursery, they should be at home with parents.

***Note:** Public Health England is now called the UK Health protection Agency but some documentation, including the childhood illnesses exclusion guidance still has the PHE logo (02.2022).

Procedure if a child falls ill

****The child will be treated using first aid and / or medication (with prior written permission) if appropriate.**

****The child will be isolated if necessary.**

****Every effort will be made to telephone parents to collect the child.**

****In an emergency, 999 / 111 will be contacted for further advice.**

****Emergency contacts will be telephoned if parents are not available.**

Note: it is important that parents provide at least 2 emergency contacts for each child.

Other illness considerations

- **If parents are ill** – please consider whether it is safe to bring your child to the setting, to protect your child, other children and staff members.

Note: if you need to ask someone else to collect your child, you must supply a password and photo of them for us to use.

- **If staff are ill** – parents will be contacted as soon as reasonably practicable and asked to collect the child. Staff carry emergency contact information for children on outings.

Confidentiality – where possible, confidentiality will be maintained; however, please note that details of illnesses will be shared if advised by the Local Authority, Public Health England, Ofsted or other agencies. Please see the Confidentiality Policy for more information.

Reporting a notifiable disease – it is the duty of the attending doctor to determine whether a disease is notifiable and then to inform the Local Authority. In some instances, where required in the statutory framework, providers must inform the Local Authority and Ofsted.

Updates

Updated 03.2022 to note that childcare providers in England can now continue to work if someone in the household has Covid-19.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/18/childminders-can-continue-to-operate-from-home-if-someone-in-their-house-has-tested-positive-for-covid/>.

Updated 04.2022 to reflect changes to the UK Health Protection Agency (UKHPA – formerly PHE) advice on Covid-19. England is now following a ‘learn to live with Covid’ policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>.

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