

COVID-19 Response

Government guidance suggests there is 'moderately high scientific confidence in evidence that suggesting younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with Coronavirus' DfE (2020). However, we need to act with extreme caution. Following a thorough review of our provision we have considered 5 key areas which we feel are essential to get right if we are to keep our children, families and staff safe.

The five key areas we have considered are;

1. Risk Assessment: We need to address all risks associated with the Coronavirus in order for us to decide on sensible measures which minimise risks for young children, families and staff.
2. Social Distancing: We need to limit the amount of contact between different groups of children.
3. Hygiene: We need to have in place additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene.
4. Managing infections: We need to have strict procedures in place to ensure children or staff do not attend if they or a member of their household have symptoms of Coronavirus; a high temperature, loss of taste or smell and/ or a consistent cough.
5. Duty of care: We need to ensure we implement flexible working practices in a way that promotes good work-life balance and supports staff and leaders.

Next steps

Having spent time considering all the above we have made some decisions regarding Pinvin Community Preschool provision.

1. We will only open for early years children to limit the spread of infection between other groups i.e. breakfast and afterschool club children from other settings.

2. Parents will be asked to sign a parental agreement which will state clear guidelines that must be followed to ensure the safety of children and staff. If parents consistently fail to meet these requirements their child's place may be at risk.
3. All staff will sign an agreement committing to new policies and procedures to help manage infection. If a staff member fails to meet these new requirements, they will be subject to disciplinary action.

Supporting documents

Our plans have been based on government guidance which is available in the public domain. We will continue to refer to guidance as it is published and inform all parents and carers of any changes to how we run our early years provision.

Department for Education (2020) Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1st June: Guidance for parents and carers. [Online] Accessed: 11th May 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Department for Education (2020) Guidance. Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020. [online] Accessed 12 May 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

Department for Education (2020) Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. Guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures. [online] Accessed 12 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

General updates

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=Ci0KCQjwgo_5BRDuARIsADDEntSLJVqrRf2g82-SN37-LTmhCuZZ31CcIFANPVz7wTbIWpnrITrIWmYaAsevEALw_wcB

Parental Agreement: Covid-19

This agreement should be read in conjunction with the settings Risk Assessment.

In order for us to operate our provision safely, protecting children, families and staff, we need to ensure we are prepared should a localised outbreak occur. This parental agreement states what these specific actions may be. Unfortunately, if such actions are not adhered to your child's place will be at risk.

Please ensure both parents or carers who are responsible for drop off or collection sign this agreement.

Social distancing

In cases of a localised outbreak we will revise our drop off and collection procedures. Parents will be asked to follow a one-way system to avoid gathering of people, and to ensure a 2-metre distance. A one-way system will be implemented starting at the bottom of the carpark and up the path to the outdoor area. Parents will then exit at the top end of the carpark.

A staggered start time for individual children may be implemented to support social distancing, this will be agreed between the parent and senior member of staff prior to arrival.

Parents are not allowed into the setting unless it is absolutely necessary. If they do have to come into the setting, they must wash their hands-on arrival, social distance from adults and refrain from touching resources.

I have read, understood and will adhere to the procedures outlined.

Printed name(s):

Signed:

Personal belongings

Toys from home will not be allowed into the setting.

Only essential comforters will be allowed. Children will be encouraged to only use these when absolutely necessary and practitioners will sensitively remove and store safely should the child put these down.

Clean bedding must be supplied on a daily basis if your child sleeps during their session with us.

We endeavour to use the outside as much as possible. New hygiene measures mean we are unable to supply clothing for children unless this is an emergency. We require all children to be supplied with appropriate clothing and footwear, this includes closed toe shoes and clothing that covers arms and legs for when we go on nature walks or to the forest school site (children do not need to arrive in this clothing but have this available in their bags).

Children who are potty training or are new to toileting should be supplied with at least one full set of spare clothes in their bags.

Children need to have sun cream applied prior to arriving to the setting. A labelled bottle of sun cream should remain in their bag for us to re-apply later in the day.

Children should be supplied with their own named sun hat.

Children should have named full body waterproofs and wellies that are kept at the setting. We go out in **all** weathers for prolonged times so this is an essential requirement.

Children's lunchboxes should be plastic not fabric and cleaned and sanitised daily by parents.

Children's drink bottles should be cleaned and sanitised daily by parents.

All belongings need to be clearly labelled.

I have read, understood and will adhere to the procedures outlined.

Printed name(s):

Signed:

Hygiene

We ask parents to ensure children arrive each morning in freshly laundered clothing.

In the setting we will be teaching children good respiratory and hand hygiene. We ask parents and carers to continue this teaching at home, following the guidance below.

Let's Wash Our Hands!

Whooshy washy!
Wet our hands
Under running water
Add some soap and
Rub them hard
Don't miss any part!
Between our fingers
Under the nails
Rid germs without fail
Front and back
And round the wrist
No germs will be missed!
They may hide
But we shall seek
So we will not fall sick!
Spishy splashy
Bye bye germs
Down the drain they squirm
With clean towels
We dry our hands
Now let's show our friends!

1 Palm to palm
2 Between fingers
3 Back of hands
4 Base of thumbs
5 Back of fingers
6 Fingernails
7 Wrists
8 Rinse and wipe dry

Remember to wash our hands:

- After using the toilet
- After sneezing or coughing
- After playing with pets
- After sports or playing outside
- Before eating

Health Promotion Board

I have read, understood and will adhere to the procedures outlined.

Printed name(s):

Signed:

Managing Infections

We require parents to have open communication with us regarding the health of their children or other household members.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at the setting

If a child becomes unwell with Coronavirus symptoms whilst in the setting, they will be immediately isolated in a room away from other persons other than their immediate carer. The room will be ventilated where possible and the door closed. Parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child immediately. The staff member caring for the child may wear a clear full-face visor to protect themselves.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this 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 (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Isolation

If a child displays Coronavirus symptoms, whether at home or the setting, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days with their fellow household members required to isolate for 14 days.

If someone in the child's household develops symptoms of Coronavirus and the child is free of symptoms, the child would be expected to isolate for 14 days.

However, all children will be eligible for testing should they have symptoms of Coronavirus and this is strongly advised. If negative they can return to the setting and fellow household members can end self-isolation.

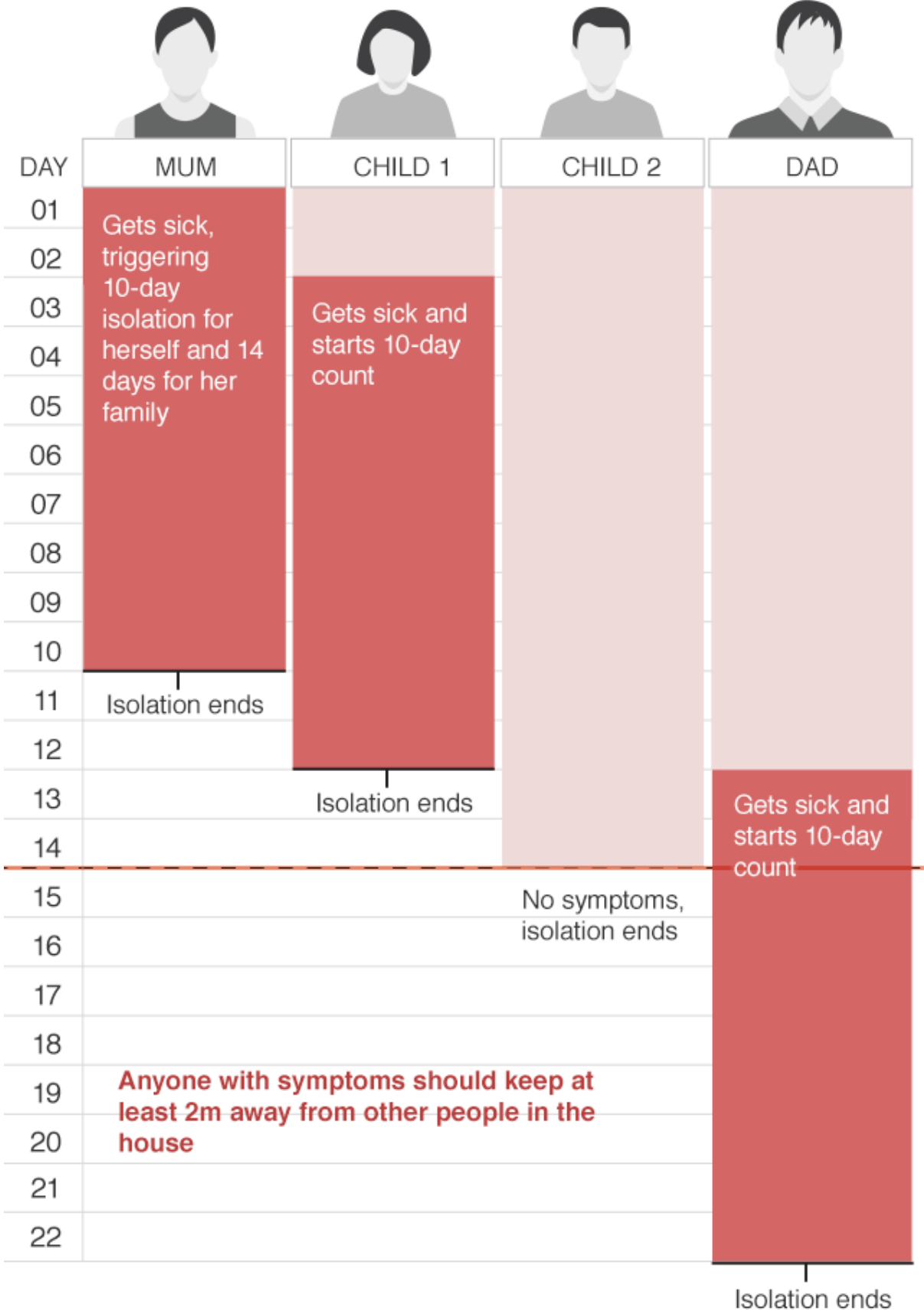
If a test comes back positive for someone attending the setting, all children and staff will be sent home immediately whilst we take advice from Public Health England. To apply for a test, visit the NHS website; <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

I have read, understood and will adhere to the procedures outlined.

Printed name(s):

Signed:

What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



People may be able to pass on coronavirus without showing any symptoms

Source: Public Health England advice

Duty of care

As well as caring for our children and families we have a duty of care to our staff.

Part of this duty is to ensure we implement flexible working practices in a way that promotes good work-life balance and supports staff and leaders.

We ask parents to inform us in good time of any changes to the care they require so we can give notice of this to the staff and allow time off if appropriate.

We ask parents to arrive and depart in a timely manner.

We value constructive feedback and ask parents to speak with senior leaders with any concerns they may have so we can deal with these promptly.

We ask parents not put our staff at risk by bringing children in when they are unwell, even if this is not directly linked to Covid-1.

I have read, understood and will adhere to the procedures outlined.

Printed name(s):

Signed:

Please note:

If we feel parents are not complying with this parental agreement, we will discuss this with you in depth, to find a resolution. If this is not possible, we reserve the right to remove your child's place with us.

Pinvin Community Pre-school Management Team

Risk assessment: Covid 19

Pinvin Community Pre-school Assessment carried out by: Bobby Pearson/Zoe Corfield

Date of next review: Weekly review

Date of assessment: September 2020

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus	Staff, children and families, plus their household members.	'Working during the Coronavirus Pandemic' policy for all staff to adhere to. This details information regarding how to keep themselves and children safe.	Parental agreement on new processes in place when we re-open. This will detail our policy on comforters and non-essential toys coming to and from home. Also, the requirement for children to wear clean clothing every day. This agreement will also state clearly our commitment to stop the spread of the virus through good communication with families regarding any symptoms they or their children have.	Management team	On-going	
	Visitors	Visitors are not allowed in the building	To help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) reminding everyone of the Government advice https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus Look arounds to be completed virtually. Any essential visits i.e. contractors to be completed out of hours when the building is empty.	Senior leaders	With immediate effect	

<p>Spread of the Covid -19 Coronavirus</p>	<p>Staff, children and families, plus their household members.</p>	<p>Sufficient hand washing facilities in place</p>	<p>Encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene throughout the setting. Employees to be reminded on a regular basis to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels.</p> <p>Snuffle stations available inside and outside to teach children good respiratory hygiene. We will teach them to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues – Following the ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ campaign and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues will be made available throughout the workplace.</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>	
<p>Spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus</p>	<p>Staff, children and families, plus their household members.</p>	<p>Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, toilets, kitchen surfaces, office equipment, toys and resources. We use appropriate cleaning products and methods.</p>	<p>Rigorous checks will be carried out by senior leaders to ensure that necessary procedures are being followed.</p> <p>Adequate staffing will allow time to clean thoroughly throughout the day and at the end of each session.</p> <p>Resources removed that may impact our cleaning abilities – more open ended easy to clean resources.</p> <p>Use of the park and equipment will be determined daily dependent on public usage and</p>	<p>Management team</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>	

			<p>Only allow essential comforters to avoid cross contamination from items coming and going from the home or setting.</p> <p>Lunchboxes must be plastic and cleaned and sanitised daily by parents. The same for drink bottles but these must be clearly named and will at this time be placed out of reach of children to avoid them being used by other children.</p>			
Spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus	Staff, children and families, plus their household members	<p>Social distancing: reducing the number of persons in the workplace at any one time.</p> <p>Adults to comply with the 2-metre rule.</p>	<p>Staff to be reminded daily of the importance of social distancing both in the workplace and outside of it.</p> <p>Redesigning processes to ensure social distancing in place.</p> <p>Conference calls to be used instead of face to face meetings.</p> <p>Social distancing to be adhered to in staff areas.</p> <p>Consider room capacity and the prioritising of spaces to priority groups.</p> <p>Ensure toileting areas do not become overcrowded.</p>	Management team	With immediate effect	

			<p>Prioritise outdoor learning into our educational program. This will support children's innate need to explore and be curious and connect with nature. This also allows us to social distance more effectively and would be a more natural environment for children to learn and develop with fewer restrictions imposed.</p>			
<p>Spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus</p>	<p>Staff, children and families, plus their household members</p>	<p>It is not possible to social distance from early years children however we can reduce transmission by ensuring children and staff only mix in small consistent groups and do not mix with other groups.</p>	<p>Willows and Maples will run in their own designated space away from the Oaks. Numbers will be capped at;</p> <p>Oaks – 17 children Willows and Maples - 8</p>	<p>Management team</p>	<p>September 2020</p>	
<p>Spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus</p>	<p>Staff, children and families, plus their household members</p>	<p>Infection control: The policy 'Working during the Coronavirus pandemic' details what staff must do should they have symptoms.</p>	<p>Management should ensure all staff adhere to this. Any staff member not complying with the new policies and procedures will face disciplinary action.</p> <p>The parental agreement must state clearly the actions to take if they or someone in their household develops symptoms of Coronavirus. If parents consistently fail to meet actions set out in the parental agreement, they risk their child's place being forfeited.</p>	<p>Management team</p>	<p>With immediate effect</p>	

Mental health issues for staff, children and families.	Staff, children and family members.	Good communication links with all staff both those currently working and on furlough.	All staff to be invited to complete the MIND online learning course, 'Mental health for small workplaces.' https://smallworkplaces.mind.org.uk/	All staff	With immediate effect	
		'Safeguarding Children through enforced closure' policy	In the case of a future lockdown we will continue to support families using on-line platforms to ensure social distancing or non-attendance to the setting does not impact negatively our relationships with families and children.			
		Outdoor learning prioritised	Plan an outdoor learning program to support the personal, social and emotional development of our children.	Management team	With immediate effect	

Social Distancing in the Early years

Government guidance states children should work in small groups. Where the physical layout of the setting does not allow for small groups of children to be kept a safe distance apart, practitioners are expected to exercise judgement in ensuring the highest standards of safety are maintained and this may include a temporary capping on numbers to ensure that safety is prioritised. The following points demonstrate how we will ensure staff and children are not exposed to unnecessary risk.

We will utilise the outdoor area, sensory room and main hall to ensure play spaces do not become overcrowded. This will be done sensitively by the practitioners so as not to cause children upset.

We are passionate about giving the best care to our children. Children learn through sensory exploration; they need touch to be reassured and form attachments. When children have secure attachments, they develop the confidence to explore the environment and learn. We will still comfort the children through touch and cuddles when we feel it is needed. Children will be able to play with each other, but practitioners will sensitively intervene if it is thought their play may be detrimental to good respiratory care and general hygiene.

Resources

Children need a range of resources to ignite their curiosities, explore and learn from. We will select carefully each day, resources that are open ended so have a range of uses i.e. boxes, pots and pans, containers, cardboard tubing, natural resources etc. We will supplement these with other toys such as cars, figures or animals and resources requested by the children.

Replenishing system: We have adapted the environment so the setting has shelving with baskets. Each morning the baskets are filled with relevant resources, these are then cleaned and sanitised at the end of the day and returned to the cupboard. This ensures the continuous cleaning of resources and allows us to clean the premises thoroughly on a daily basis, due to less clutter. Sensory play is essential for all children, there is no right or wrong way to play with sensory resources and by engaging the 5 senses it can calm anxious or frustrated children. We will continue to offer children sensory experiences such as play doh, rice, sand and water play. This will be monitored closely and we will use smaller amounts so we can dispose of these regularly throughout the day. Children will be required to wash hands before and after use of these resources.

Activities

We will continue to provide a variety of activities from our normal curriculum such as singing, dancing, cooking, outdoor learning, nature walks, art and craft activities etc. We will put additional measures in place to ensure the children and adults safety, such as smaller groupings and allowing sufficient space for activities.

Cooking

Cooking is an activity that has so many benefits for young children and covers all 7 areas of the Early Years curriculum;

Personal, social and emotional development: Cooking gives children a huge sense of achievement. It allows them to explore foods without the pressure of eating them, and learn to regulate their behaviour and manage risks when using non-play equipment.

Communication and language: Cooking activities support children in their listening and attentions skills, it gives them opportunity to follow instruction, and is a great activity to introduce new vocabulary.

Physical development: The use of tools and utensils develop both fine and gross motor skills. Stirring, pouring, chopping, mashing are all great for developing muscles in their hands which will help them later with writing skills.

Literacy: Following simple recipes can support children's interest in pictures and the written word. Looking at packaging on ingredients teaches children that written word has meaning.

Maths: What better activity than cooking to learn a range of mathematical concepts? Weight, number, quantity, estimation – all key problem-solving skills.

Understanding the World: Cooking helps teach knowledge about food, where it comes from and appreciate what we have. It also can conjure fond memories of our lives outside of the setting, cooking and eating with our family members.

Expressive arts and design: Cooking can be creative and allow children to let their imaginations flow.

Cooking with young children can have some challenges in terms of hygiene.

- ✓ When cooking we will work in pairings or small groups no larger than 4 children.
- ✓ We will ensure each child has their own equipment and ingredients.
- ✓ We will ensure their creations are clearly labelled and these will be eaten by the children in the setting for snack and not brought home.
- ✓ Good hygiene will be taught as part of this activity.
- ✓ Children will be taught not to share food.

- ✓ We will use this activity to teach children about healthy lifestyles and introduce them to a range of recipes both savoury and sweet.

Infection Control

PPE is not recommended in early years settings, however changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

Previously, children's temperatures were regularly tested throughout the day, but government advice suggests this is not necessary as it is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. However, if we feel a child is hot to touch, we will take their temperature.

Children will be taught the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene through the introduction of snuffle stations both inside and outside the setting.

Testing

Normal procedures apply if a child or staff member develops symptoms of Coronavirus; they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should isolate for 14 days.

All staff and pupils will be eligible for testing should they have symptoms of Coronavirus and this will be strongly advised. If negative they can return to the setting and fellow household members can end self-isolation.

If a test comes back positive all children and staff should be sent home. Advice would then be sought by Public Health England.

If a child becomes unwell whilst in the setting, they should be immediately isolated in a room away from other persons other than their immediate carer. The room should be ventilated where possible and the door closed. Staff working with the child do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms.

This policy has been written based on a number of government documents. As scientific evidence becomes available, we will review policy as necessary.

Supporting documents

Department for Education (2020) *Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1st June: Guidance for parents and carers*. [Online] Accessed: 11th May 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>