

## ILLNESS & INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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It is my policy to keep children safe when they are in my care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting and while I am off site.

I follow the requirements laid out in the EYFS framework and the Department for Education COVID 19 guidance.

### **Procedures (how I will put the statement into practice)**

In order to protect others who use my service and my own family, I require parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/household. I will share updates about my own family's health with parents/carers.

I expect all parents/carers to take necessary steps and follow Government guidance to prevent the spread of COVID 19, for example complying with current guidance about who you can meet up with and appropriate social distancing. In addition, I will comply with this guidance to ensure the safety of my own family and those who access my childcare service. Failure to comply with Government guidance may result in termination of the contract.

### **Sick Children - COVID-19**

If a child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they must be collected immediately and parents will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

While the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved away from other children and sat in the hallway, behind a closed door. They will have appropriate adult supervision until such time as they are collected.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, a potty will be available in the hallway, which will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

I will wear appropriate PPE when caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

When assisting someone who has been unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, I will not close the setting unless I develop symptoms myself (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. I will wash my hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell and the affected area will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant.

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Should I, or any family member develop symptoms of COVID-19, I will get tested and self-isolate for 10 days and fellow household members will self-isolate for 10 days. In this circumstance, you will not be charged for any period that I have to close my setting.

All children who attend my setting will be able to access a test if they display symptoms of COVID-19, and I will be encouraging you to get them tested in this scenario (as outlined in [Actions for Early Years & Childcare Providers during the COVID19 outbreak](#)).

Where a child tests negative, they can return to my setting and their household members can end their self-isolation in accordance with government guidance.

Where a child, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the other children within my setting will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of these families do not need to self-isolate unless their child subsequently develops symptoms.

### Other illnesses

If a child in my setting becomes ill whilst in my care, or whom I believe has an infectious illness or disease I will;

- Keep the child away from the other children
- Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
- Ensure the child is excluded from my setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with Health Authority guidelines  
[Guidance on infection control in childcare settings](#)

If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification I will inform the parents/guardians of my concerns and act on advice given by Public Health England England (details of which can be found at [Guidance on infection control in childcare settings](#)). I will also inform Ofsted of any action taken.

I make parents aware of my sickness exclusion policy and keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in my setting. Children with sickness and diarrhoea must not return to my setting until 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents I expect to be paid for the child's place even if they are excluded from my setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

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If I, or one of the members of my family, have a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform parents as soon as I am able. In this instance, if I am not able to offer my childminding service I do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

I will inform the parents of the other children in my setting if a child I care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

### Hygiene

Hygiene procedures are important at all times but particularly due to COVID 19. In my setting I take the following measures to help prevent germs spreading:

- Carry tissues with me at all times and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. I will bin the tissue, and wash my hands, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel.
- Wash my hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Display posters that show good hygiene and hand washing practice
- Avoid touching my eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- When outside the setting, encourage children to keep socially distanced from other households.

I also use a range of resources (such as [e-bug resources](#)) to promote hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

I will ensure that the children are continuously reminded of good hand-washing procedures and will support them to wash their hands, in line with Government guidance. We will sing our setting hand washing song 'Wash, wash, wash your hands...' to ensure that we wash them for the correct amount of time.

I will provide a small towel on a named peg, for each child, which will be washed at the end of each session at 60°C.

I ensure there is a supply of tissues available for children and help teach them how to catch their sneezes and coughs in the crook of their elbow. We will support this by telling them to use their 'elephant's trunk'.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations (intimate care needs, e.g. nappy changing, toileting, cleaning up any spillages of body fluids) where a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained, or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms

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of COVID-19 while in the setting. This will then be disposed of safely and correctly.

I ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk. Pet food dishes are kept well away from children and locked behind the baby gate in the utility room. All pets are regularly vaccinated and up to date with worming and flea treatment.

I have read and understand the illness and infectious diseases policy.

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	
Parent(s)' name	
Parent(s)' signature	
Date	

Date policy was written	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
This policy is due for review on the following date	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2022