

Policy for dealing with COVID-19 within Little Hubbers Day Nursery

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- ❖ Information about COVID-19
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Information about the virus

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 10 days. This means that if a person remains well 10 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 10 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups - very few cases have been reported in children.

How COVID-19 is spread

From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (termed respiratory secretions) containing the virus are most likely to be the most important means of transmission.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

- secretions can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or could be inhaled into the lungs
- It is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching a door knob or shaking hands then touching their own face).

There is currently no good evidence that people who do not have symptoms are infectious to others.

Preventing the spread of infection

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if hand washing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 1. before leaving home

2. on arrival at school
3. after using the toilet
4. after breaks and sporting activities
5. before food preparation
6. before eating any food, including snacks
7. before leaving school
8. use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
9. avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
10. avoid close contact with people who are unwell
11. clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
12. if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
13. see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

Face masks for the general public, children, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

Cleaning Routines:

Daily cleaning routines will largely remain the same, as high standards of good hygiene are currently in place. However, in areas where there are hard surfaces that are infrequently cleaned or not cleaned to a high enough standard the following will be put in place:

All frequently used hard surfaces will be cleaned with a hard surface cleaning and sanitising solution each day, this includes all door handles, number pads on doors, door release buttons, light switches, key boards/ mouse, telephones, office desks, printers, phone and money safe, banisters.

Hand Washing Routines:

To ensure the staff, children, parents and visitors are washing their hands in line with the current guidelines the following will be put in place:

On arrival to nursery all adults will sanitise their hands in the entrance hall.

Staff should wash their own hands before supporting a child to wash theirs.

During the day children and staff will wash their hands frequently as well as after going to the toilet or having their nappy changed, before meals or snacks, and when arriving back from a walk.

Little Hubbers will introduce the Hand Washing Song to encourage the children to wash their hands with soap and water, and for at least twenty seconds.

Children's guides on handwashing will go in all the bathrooms.

In the room where there is no direct access to the bathroom children can be lifted to the sink to wash their hands by their parents at the start and end of the day.

Baby wipes or water and cloths will be taken on outings Individual face cloths are used at meal times, and will be washed after each use on a 60-degree wash cycle.

Staff must wash their hands before preparing or serving food even if wearing gloves.

Guidance on dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Little Hubbers Day Nursery

What to do if child or adult becomes unwell and believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 (either through travel to a specified country or area or contact with a confirmed case)

Call NHS 111, or 999 in an emergency (if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk), People who become unwell should be advised not to go to their GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

Whilst you wait for advice from NHS 111 or an ambulance to arrive, try to find somewhere safe for the unwell person to sit which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If possible, find a room or area where they can be isolated behind a shut door, such as a staff office or meeting room. If it is possible to open a window, do so for ventilation. They should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects and be advised to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the bin. If no bin is available, put the tissue in a bag or pocket for disposing in a bin later. If you don't have any tissues available, they should cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow. The room will need to be thoroughly cleaned once they leave.

If they need to go to the bathroom whilst waiting for medical assistance, they should use a separate bathroom if available.

Make sure that children and young people know to tell a member of staff if they feel unwell.

Following government guidelines, the nursery will remain open for all children and children will no longer be kept in small consistent groups our under 2 children will be separate from our over 2 children the majority of the day. PPE is supplied for staff to wear, rooms are well ventilated and activities take place outdoors as much as possible. Parents/carers will hand their children over to staff in the front entrance separate from the main group of children, parents/carers are required to wear masks inside the setting when dropping off and collecting children. Separate risk assessments are in place for clinically vulnerable and staff who are pregnant as set out in the guidance for pregnant employees and Health and Safety at Work Regulations 19

Where a coronavirus (COVID-19) develops symptoms or has a positive test.

Ensure children, staff and other adults do not come into settings if they have coronavirus symptoms for at least 10 full days from

- the day after the start of the symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have a positive test.

Anyone developing these symptoms during the day is to be sent home.

If anyone in the setting becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or high temperature or a loss of change in their normal taste or smell they:

- must be sent home to begin isolation, the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days, if any of the individual's household members are also present in the setting, they will be sent home at the same time.
- Are advised to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- Should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID -19)

Other members of the household including any siblings should isolate. Their isolation period includes the day the first person in their household's symptoms started or the day the test was taken and the next 10 days. Any member of staff who has provided close contact care to someone with symptoms even while wearing PPE and all other members of staff of children who have been in close contact do not need to go home to isolate, They must however self-isolate if:

- The symptomatic person subsequently tests positive.
- They develop symptoms themselves in which case they should arrange a test.
- They are requested to do so by track and trace.

What to do if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the nursery

The nursery will be contact the local Public Health England Health Protection Team to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. An assessment of each childcare or education setting will be undertaken by the Health Protection Team with relevant staff. Advice on the management of children and staff will be based on this assessment.

The Health Protection Team will also be in contact with the patient directly to advise on isolation and identifying other contacts and will be in touch with any contacts of the patient to provide them with appropriate advice. Advice on cleaning of communal areas such as playrooms and toilets will be given by the Health Protection Team.

If there is a confirmed case, a risk assessment will be undertaken by Little Hubbers with advice from the local Health Protection Team. In most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary, but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing.

What to do if children or staff in the nursery are contacts of a confirmed

- if they become unwell with cough, fever or shortness of breath they will be tested for COVID-19
- if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of potential contact with COVID-19
- if they are unwell at any time within their 10-day observation period and they test positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated for the infection

If a confirmed case occurs in the nursery the local Health Protection Team will provide you with advice and will work with the management team. Outside those that are defined as close contacts, the rest of the nursery does not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities attending educational establishments or work as usual, unless they become unwell. If they become unwell, they will be assessed as a suspected case depending on their symptoms. This advice applies to staff and children in the rest of the nursery. The decision as to whether children and staff fall into this contact group or the closer contact group will be

made between the Health Protection Team, the nursery and (if they are old enough) the child. Advice should be given as follows:

- if they become unwell with cough, fever or shortness of breath they will be asked to self-isolate and should seek medical advice from NHS 111
- if they are unwell at any time within the 10 days of contact and they are tested and are positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated as such

If a child becomes unwell and believe they have been exposed to COVID-19:

The child must be isolated in the same manner as an adult; however, their key person should remain with them, and keep their distance from the child, at least 2 meters.

The adult must wear protective gloves and disposable apron.

To ensure the child and staff members safety the child will be sat in a chair, or could be strapped into a buggy if suitable, in order to maintain their distance from the adult supporting them. They will be provided with a toy for entertainment.

The child's parent would be called to collect the child immediately, 111 will also be called for advice and if required an ambulance will be called. The child should be off the nursery premises within one hour of becoming unwell.

After the child or staff member has left the room used for isolation will need to be deep cleaned, including any objects/items touched.

Guidance on cleaning Little Hubbers Day Nursery after a case of COVID-19 (suspected or confirmed)

Coronavirus symptoms are similar to a flu-like illness and include cough, fever, or shortness of breath. Once symptomatic, all surfaces that the suspected case has come into contact with must be cleaned using disposable cloths and household detergents, according to current recommended workplace legislation and practice.

These include:

- all surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles,

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors) but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids do not need to be specially cleaned and disinfected. If a person becomes ill in a shared space, these should be cleaned as detailed above.

Disposing of waste in the nursery including tissues, if children, students or staff become unwell with suspected COVID-19

All waste that has been in contact with the individual, including used tissues, and masks if used, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It should be put in a safe place and marked for storage until the result is available. If the individual tests negative, this can be put in the normal waste.

Should the individual test positive, the nursery will be instructed what to do with the waste.

Guidance to assist professionals

As COVID-19 has only been recently identified, guidance to support professionals is regularly being updated or published. Up-to-date advice can be found through the following links

Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI66ix8Y_g5wIVTbTtCh2BoQ6nEAAYASAAEgLn-fD_BwE

Guidance for educational settings <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> Guidance for employers and business

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-covid-19> <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Call NHS 111

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