

Covid-19 Nursery Policy

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

Nursery Village have introduced a general [Virus & Infection Control Policy](#), which can be read along side our [Children's Sickness Policy](#).

What is Coronavirus:

Coronaviruses are a common type of virus. They typically cause fever and a cough, which may progress to more severe pneumonia, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties in some people, according to Public Health England (PHE).

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild with most of those seriously affected have had pre-existing health conditions. Whilst little is known about this new strain of the virus, it is not clear how it is spread, similar viruses tend to be spread by coughs and sneezes – so the way the infection gains entry to the body is the same as the way it exits and spreads to others.

It is also possible that the virus may be spread by touching a surface or object that has been coughed or sneezed on by someone with the virus – such as by touching a doorknob or shaking hands with someone and then touching your face.

What are the symptoms:

The [NHS Guidance](#) states symptoms of the coronavirus usually include:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new persistent cough**
- possibly feeling tired
- difficulty breathing

Our Aims:

The current Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, has resulted in specific Government guidelines and restrictions, which we have implemented to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in our care, our staff team or visitors.

In addition, guidance for Early Years settings from the [Department for Education](#) acknowledges that *“unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff”*, and so our Policies & Procedures have been adapted to achieve the best possible protection whilst attending nursery.

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Policy

As set out in our [Children's Sickness Policy](#), we cannot accept any child who is unwell or who has had a serious infectious illness. Additionally, our [Virus & Infection Control Policy](#) details all measures adopted into regular practice, prior to all specific controls below, minimising risk through Social Distancing in as far as possible within the nursery environment.

- Nursery visitors (Clear of symptoms) will be restricted to operationally required **only**.
- Drop off and collection will be completed at the front lobby door or rear door, observing Social Distancing of 2 metres.
- Only essentials like spare clothes or a bottle may be brought into nursery from home and where possible, should remain in nursery for the entire week.
- Staff and Children **MUST** wash their hands on arrival and frequently during the day.
- Staggered Mealtimes and Nursery activities as described in the following Procedures, to actively encourage wherever possible, that staff and children remain in smaller groups.
- Staff temperatures **MUST** be taken and recorded before entry, at the start of every day.
- Children's temperatures may be taken on arrival where they are showing symptoms.
- No Staff member or Child will be permitted into nursery with a temperature of **38C** or above, or exhibiting a persistent cough.
- Children's temperatures must be taken in accordance with the [Children's Sickness Policy](#), before a symptomatic child is cared for in isolation, when Facial PPE may be used.
- Facial PPE should not be worn routinely, in line with Government guidance.
- Where staffing support becomes restrictive:
 - We will seek parent volunteers who have alternative options for childcare or work that day, who can keep their child at home.
 - Without sufficient volunteers, we will nominate and rotate children in order of the lowest attendance booking, whose parents may have more flexibility on any day.
 - Where a booking is denied due to staffing, your session will be credited to your account, but will not be available for a refund.
- If **ANY** person is Self-Isolating at the same home as a child, that child cannot attend Nursery and all residents of that home should continue to self-isolate for **14 days**.
- Notification **must** be made to nursery of **any** positive test for Covid-19 or of **any** contact with someone who has subsequently tested positive for Covid-19. Do Not Attend Nursery.

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Procedures

- All staff **MUST** use hand sanitiser at each entry point to the nursery, both on entry and following handover of any child.
- Staff **MUST** record their temperature with a staff witness on first arrival each day.
- Staff will wash their hands after any of the following events for at least 20 seconds:
 - On first arrival into their nursery room.
 - Moving from one room to another.
 - Re-entering the nursery.
 - After any and all personal care or contact needs of a child.
 - At least every hour throughout the day.
- Staff **MUST** only move nursery room where absolutely essential, contacting other staff using internal phones where possible.
- Children will wash their hands on arrival and during the day in frequent, small, supervised groups to ensure effective practice, which we would encourage at home as well.
- All toys and resources will be subject to anti-bacterial treatment daily between uses.
- Nursery surfaces such as door handles or touch plates, phones and iPads are subject to anti-bacterial treatment at the start of the day, after lunchtime and during the nightly clean.
- Resources will be limited to items that can be used individually or sanitised between uses, such as pens or paint brushes, whereas use of sand or playdough will be discontinued.
- External activities like park visits are currently suspended. Nursery terrace garden only.
- Routine activities will be planned to engage smaller groups of children, ideally at the child to staff member ratio level, for example 4 toddlers and 1 staff member.
- Circle time will not take place as a whole room and mealtimes will take place in these same smaller groups, with the tables separated by 2 metres.
- Staff members are to be deployed separately throughout their nursery room, to encourage activities that engage the children in their smaller groups, without joining other staff members for their activity.
- These procedures are in place to “encourage and engage” children in smaller, separate groups, but this is a best endeavour to reduce contact amongst children of nursery age. It cannot and should not be enforced, where children move to other groups.