

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They 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.



6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

Policy statement

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness and/or diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – managers will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital ear thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them Calpol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible, or where consent has been agreed/signed during the Admission process. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign a medication record form when they collect their child.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and/or diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhoea and/or sickness, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.

- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and acts on any advice given.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. We:

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution; any cloths used are disposed of.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although we will ask that the parent performs at least one cycle of treatment prior to returning/noticing the condition. In exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

- When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
 - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
 - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
 - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
 - Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
 - Review measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file, a copy is kept in the, readily available, care plan folder and a copy is kept in the Outing care plan/medication folder.
- No nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must

be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

- At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Oral medication:
 - Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP and have instructions clearly written on them.
 - We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
 - We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
 - We must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.
- Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:

These include adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

 - We must have:
 - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
 - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing us to administer medication; and
 - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
 - Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

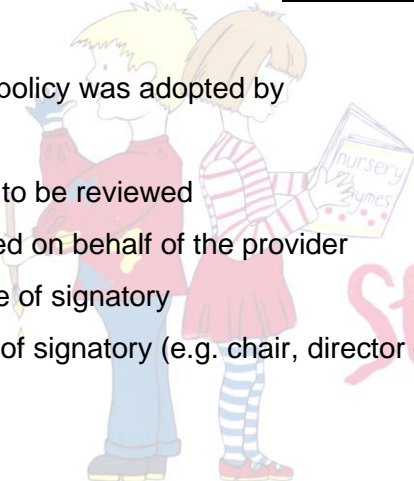
Pandemic Outbreak

During any pandemic outbreak we will follow NHS guidelines and the following sequence of actions need to be taken:

1. Child presents with symptoms; parents are requested to collect child and seek diagnosis from GP or take further advice from NHS 111.
2. Child's parents are requested to inform setting of outcome/diagnosis and keep child at home for the recommended exclusion period. For cases of a suspected pandemic virus, staff and service users must adhere to current Government advice regarding self-exclusion even if no symptoms are present.

3. For confirmed cases of a notifiable disease and any pandemic disease the setting will contact their local Health Protection Team (HPT) as soon as possible for further guidance. The Managers will inform the Trustees and Committee Members and retain a confidential record.
4. Acting on the advice of the local HPT, our Setting will either:
 - close for a set period and undertake a deep clean
 - carry on as usual but also undertake a deep clean
5. If a notifiable disease is confirmed, staff must inform the Managers immediately and Ofsted will be informed within 14 days. Cases of confirmed pandemic disease will be treated as a notifiable disease.
6. A deep clean will be undertaken at the soonest opportunity following any illness outbreak. Hand hygiene messages will be reinforced and staff are to be vigilant to any further signs of infection.
7. The Manager will continue to liaise with the HPT as required and will keep a full record of children affected, how long they are away from our Setting and the date on which they return.

- If we are unsure about any aspect, we contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk/insert details of your insurance provider.



This policy was adopted by _____ (name of provider)

On _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the provider _____

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) _____

St. Mary's Pre-School

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (2009)
- Medication Administration Record (2013)