



CHILD SICKNESS POLICY

Aims

To provide a healthy and safe environment for all children.

Policy

We cannot accept a child who is unwell or who has a serious infectious illness.

Procedure

Control of illness

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they are ill and to inform the Pre-school as to the nature of the illness. If a child arrives at the pre-school and the preschool manager or member of staff does not consider them well enough to attend, the parent/carer will be advised accordingly.

We will make every effort to stop the spread of infection within the setting but can only do this with the co-operation of parent/carers. The Pre-school will alert other parents as/when necessary and make careful observations of any child who seems unwell (please also refer to our Administration of medication policy).

Below is a list of the most common childhood ailments that are infectious and the recommended exclusion period.

- Coughs, colds and sore throats – we appreciate that children often pick up cold viruses without being ill and accept they do not need to be stay away from the setting, however, if they have raised temperature, continued cough, or are unable to eat, then exclusion will be necessary.
- Any child with sickness or diarrhoea must be kept away from pre-school for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea.
- Temperatures – any child with a raised temperature (38 degrees or above), even if not accompanied by any other symptoms, should be kept away from preschool until the temperature returns to normal.
- Depending on the exclusion period, children who have been prescribed antibiotics to treat an infection or illness should remain at home for at least 24 hours to ensure there are no adverse side effects. Prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication must be completed by the parent/carer in line with our medication policy. Children can return to the setting after 24 hours if they feel well enough to attend.
- If a child has been unwell with a contagious condition at home we will follow the exclusion time periods set out within the 'Health protection in education and childcare settings' exclusion table: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>

Further information on infectious diseases can be found on the Public Health England section of the Gov.uk website. <https://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases>

Information on infection control can also be found at this website: Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

Procedure for staff to follow:

- Should a child become unwell during a session they will be made comfortable in a quiet place, the parents and/or designated emergency contact will be telephoned and asked to collect their child and take them home. Very sick children will not be left unattended. If there is a danger of vomiting, give a bowl or bucket. Give the parent/carer precise details of the child's condition.
- If a child should suddenly become seriously ill during the duration of the session, immediate medical advice will be sought and the parent informed.
- If there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or bodily fluids disposable gloves, disposable masks and plastic aprons should be worn. Wear disposable eye protection (or if reusable decontaminate prior to next use) if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- Ask the parent/carer to keep them at home until s/he has recovered.
- If a parent/carer says that their child has been unwell but now seems to have recovered, ask for exact details and remind them of the exclusion period and policy.
- Cuts or open sores whether on adults or children will be covered with sticking plaster or other dressing.
- All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.

Nits and head lice – All parents are notified on identifying a case of head lice and asked to check their children and treat all the family if necessary.

If the children of Pre-school staff are unwell, the children will not accompany their parents/carers to work in the Pre-school.

Ongoing medical needs

Medication will only be administered with the written consent of parents to children suffering from chronic conditions e.g. Asthma or children with special medical needs, but who are otherwise healthy. Medication must be stored in the original container and clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and any instructions. See Administration of Medicines Policy.

Serious illness

If a child should suddenly become seriously ill during the duration of the group, we will immediately seek medical attention. The pre-school will follow its **Serious Accident and Emergency Procedure in the First Aid Policy and procedure.**

Riddor

Riddor means the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations and there are certain things that have to be reported to Riddor.

Reportable diseases include certain poisonings, some skin diseases, lung diseases and infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, anthrax, legionellosis and tetanus.

We will keep a record, which will include the date and method of reporting, the date, time and place of event, the personal details of those involved and a brief description of the nature of the event or disease. An incident form may be used for this.

To report to Riddor, we will use the appropriate on line form on the website, which can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm>

To report fatal/specified, and major incidents only T: 0345 300 9923

NOTE: PVI childcare settings need to report anything relevant for staff and volunteers but not for children to Riddor.

Maintained setting's need to report anything relevant for staff, volunteers and children to Riddor.

Ofsted

We will notify Ofsted of any serious illnesses. We will do this within 14 days and understand that Ofsted may take action against us if we don't. We will use the following form to notify them <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

UK Health Security Agency – formerly known as Public Health England

We will manage most infectious diseases by following the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) guidance – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

We will use our contingency policy and consider seeking specialist advice from our UKHSA team in line with this.

UKHSA South West
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

Email: swhpt@phe.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 303 8162

Current List of Notifiable Diseases -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report>

Action in the event of an outbreak or incident

Education and childcare settings may consider seeking specialist advice from the relevant UKHSA HPT if they are concerned and have seen:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing

Policy Reviewed annually

- number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection or diarrhoea and vomiting
- evidence of severe disease due to an infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital
- more than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chicken pox and scarlet fever

Education and childcare settings are also asked to contact their UKHSA HPT as soon as possible to report any outbreak or serious or unusual illness for example:

- E.coli 0157 or E coli STEC infection
- food poisoning
- hepatitis
- measles, mumps, rubella (rubella is also called German measles)
- meningococcal meningitis or septicaemia
- scarlet fever (if an outbreak or co-circulating chicken pox)
- tuberculosis (TB)
- typhoid
- whooping cough (also called pertussis)

What information may be asked for

If you are wishing to contact your UKHSA HPT due to concerns about an outbreak or incident in your setting, then it will be useful to have the information listed below available. This will help the health protection team to assess the size and nature of the outbreak or incident and advise on any recommended actions.

Information includes:

- type of setting, for example nursery or special school
- total numbers affected (staff and pupils)
- total numbers attending (staff and pupils)
- any food handlers affected
- number of classes, rooms, year groups affected (including nursery if applicable)
- symptoms experienced
- date when symptoms started including a brief overview of the sequence of numbers of new cases since the outbreak started.

- any indications of severe disease such as overnight admissions to hospital
- were there any events or trips in the week prior to the start of the outbreak
- if known whether any tests or clinical assessments have taken place
- vaccination uptake (for example for MMR and other infections)
- If there are any individuals within the affected group at higher risk from severe disease

Classification of an outbreak

An outbreak or incident may be defined in epidemiological terms as:

- an incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place
- a greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for the place and time where the outbreak has occurred

For example:

- 2 or more cases of diarrhoea or vomiting which are in the same classroom, shared communal areas or taking part in the same activities
- higher than usual number of people diagnosed with scabies
- higher than usual number of people with respiratory symptoms

These definitions should not be taken as a threshold for reporting or action. Please follow the guidance, for when to seek help or report infections in your setting: [Health protection in education and childcare settings.](#)