



A REGISTERED CHARITY, Charity Number 1026054
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COVID Outbreak Plan

In the case of a positive COVID result of any child on roll or staff member, this will be reported to Ofsted, our Local Authority key contact, as well as the Department of Health.

If we have several confirmed cases within 10 days, this may be deemed as an outbreak, as defined by the Department for Education;

5 children, pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10 day period or 10% of children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10 day period.

There are currently 35 children on the register and 11 staff – total 46 – 10% would be 4.6 . We will operate our COVID Outbreak Plan if there are 4 or more staff and children combined who test positive via a PCR test within 10 days.

Our COVID Outbreak plan is as follows:

In the event of the above thresholds being reached we will review and reinforce our existing testing, ventilation, and hygiene measures. This may include but is not limited to the re-introduction of face masks when dropping off/collecting children, the use of a visor by staff when in prolonged close contact with each other or the children, spending more time outdoors, serving snacks to the children rather than the children choosing, increased supervision on handwashing, removal of equipment that cannot be cleaned easily eg fabrics, cushions.

Additionally, public health advice will be sought by contacting the Department for Education helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1).

Staffing

If the outbreak is because of staff testing positive with a PCR test, the manager will look at the number of staff required for each session; morning and afternoon. If there are enough remaining qualified staff that are not affected to meet the adult to child ratios we will continue to operate as normal. If there are not enough staff to safely care for the children, then the manager will contact all families to offer alternative sessions where possible and/or appropriate. Children will be prioritised for sessions according to our critical worker categories which the Manager has a record of.

Children

If the outbreak is amongst children in the setting, we will work closely with all of the relevant authorities and be advised by them. In the first instance a deep clean of the setting will take place. All parents will be notified of confirmed cases within 24 hours, no names will be given. All staff will book and take a PCR test. Staff that are double vaccinated will not be required to isolate but will be encouraged to limit social contact as much as possible whilst awaiting the results of the PCR test.

Children under 5 years will only be advised to take a PCR test if they develop any symptoms or there is a positive case of coronavirus in their household, or if they have knowingly had prolonged close contact indoors in a social environment with a positive case.

Community

If we are advised of an increased amount of coronavirus cases within the community, we will be advised by the local health protection authority. At this point it is likely that we would not be inviting parents to attend any productions, collection of children would revert to outside, and any trips outside of the Pre-School would be cancelled.

Isolation

Current government advice is that children under 18 years and adults that have been double vaccinated do not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus. This would mean that if a child/staff member at Pre-School tested positive for covid-19, the other children and staff who are double vaccinated do not have to isolate and we will not have to close. All families will be notified of positive cases and when the child or staff member last attended the setting, and it is the choice of the parent/carer if you wish your child to continue attending.

If someone in a child or household has tested positive, we request that you let the Manager know as soon as possible and the child does not return to Pre-School until a negative PCR test has been obtained. Although children do not have to isolate, they are very likely to become infected due to living with an infected person who provides care for them. The rule of obtaining a negative PCR before returning also applies to staff. This decision has been made to further protect staff and other children and their families and to try and prevent any possible spread of covid-19 in the setting or the wider community.

Bubbles

In the event of an outbreak, we may be advised to operate within small bubbles, such as we did during the Summer of 2020. In this case we will divide the Pre-School children and staff into appropriately sized bubbles or groups and provide an equal number of sessions to each. Staff will not be able to cross between bubbles unless necessary. A thorough clean of the setting and all resources would take place between each bubble or group attending.

Closure

A full closure of the Pre-School may be necessary if we no longer have enough qualified staff to safely lead and supervise the running of the Pre-School, or if advised by our local authority or Public Health Team. In this instance we will let all parents know as soon as possible, and endeavour to help arrange alternative childcare for our vulnerable children or those with parents who are critical workers, in conjunction with our local authority.

The Pre-School Management team will keep Parents informed of all changes to our COVID measures should these be needed at any time.

This plan was adopted on (date) 8 November 2021 and will be reviewed and updated as required.