

COVID-19 POLICY 2020



2020

<i>This Policy was adopted on</i>	<i>Signed on behalf of the nursery</i>	<i>Date for Review</i>
March 2020	L Jessiman	As directed by the Government
Reviewed April 2022	L Jessiman	As directed by the Government

EVELINE DAY NURSERIES
Head Office, 30 Ritherdon Road, Tooting SW17 8QD
info@evelinedaynursery.com 0208 672 7549

Covid-19 Policy

Update April 2022

All childcare providers in England no longer have sector specific guidance for COVID-19.

There is no longer a requirement to have Covid-specific risk assessments as separate documents, however there should still be regard for health and safety regulations with Covid being one of the regular risks that should be included in overall risk assessments.

The previous 'Actions for early years providers' guidance has been withdrawn and replaced with two key documents:

- General public health guidance : **Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19** this document covers general public advice and information on respiratory illnesses like cold, flu and Covid-19
- Specific guidance for education and childcare settings: **Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities** this document has more specific advice for settings on infection control including exclusions, cleaning guidance and vulnerable children and adults.

The following policy includes the updated guidance in the two key documents above.

1. Information about Covid-19
2. Who is at risk
3. Preventing the spread of infection
4. Guidance on dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
5. Guidance on cleaning after a case of COVID-19 (confirmed or suspected)

Information about the virus

Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus was first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

Most people infected will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. The symptoms are:

- New persistent cough
- Temperature above 37.8
- Loss of taste

The NHS has also added further possible symptoms of Covid-19:

- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired or exhausted
- An aching body
- A headache
- A sore throat
- A blocked or runny nose
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick or being sick

Children with respiratory infections can experience a range of symptoms including a runny nose, high temperature, cough and sore throat. It is not possible to tell which germ someone is infected with based on symptoms alone.

Who is at risk?

All patrons of the setting are at risk including: staff, children, parents/carers of the children attending, any other individuals involved in the day to day operation of the setting. 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. Also vulnerable groups of children with impaired immune defence mechanisms

How are respiratory infections including COVID-19 spread?

Respiratory infections including Covid-19 can be easily spread between people. Sneezing, coughing, singing and talking may spread droplets from an infected person to someone close by.

Droplets from the mouth or nose may also contaminate hands, eating and drinking utensils, toys or other items and spread to those who touch them, particularly if they touch their nose or mouth.

Preventing the spread of infection

The general principles to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections including COVID-19 are:

- Thorough hand washing procedures, soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Paper towels will be available to dry hands and be disposed of easily
- After visiting the toilet
- After coughing or sneezing
- Before food preparation
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, disposing of the tissue and washing hands "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Avoid touching eyes, noses and mouth

Guidance on dealing with a suspected or confirmed case of a respiratory infection such as COVID-19 within the setting

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend the Nursery.
- Children and who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can return when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
- If a child has a positive Covid-19 test result they should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. The risk of passing the infection onto others is much lower after 3 days. They can return after this period if they feel well enough and no longer have a high temperature.
- Children who usually attend the Nursery and who live with someone who has a positive Covid-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.
- Any staff members who have a positive Covid-19 test result should stay at home for 5 days after they took a test.

Guidance on cleaning the setting after an outbreak or incident

Coronavirus symptoms are similar to flu-like illness such as cough, fever, shortness of breath etc. once symptomatic, all surfaces that the suspected case has come into contact with must be cleaned using disposable cloths and household detergents, according to the current recommend workplace legislation and practise.

These include

- All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with bodily fluids
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles , handrails and telephones
- Cleaning equipment used should be disposable or, if reusable, disinfected after each use.

Testing

- Universal PCR tests ceased on 1st April 2022
- PCR tests are only available to specific groups such as eligible patients, NHS and social care staff. This does not include Early Years staff.
- Asymptomatic testing is no longer advised in educational settings.

Reporting outbreaks

As an Early Years Provider we will contact the UKHSA HPT if there is;

- A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or children absences due to acute respiratory infection
- Evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example if a child or staff member is admitted to hospital.