Infection Control Policy covid -19

The public health guidance is based on two key principles:

• That services should take steps to ensure individuals with symptoms do not enter the service, and • That services should take steps to reduce the chance of spread of the virus in case an infectious person, without symptoms, enters the building.

Standard infection prevention and control procedures in my home are always important but even more so in a pandemic situation. A heightened awareness by myself, parents and children (where age appropriate) is required so that we know how to protect each other and how to recognise and report symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it, so it is important to keep informed and make sure you are using the most up to date guidance available.

COVID-19 can be a mild or severe illness. Severe illness is much more common in older people (especially older than 70) and in people vulnerable for other reasons. Severe illness is much less common in children and young adults in good health. Symptoms include fever (high temperature), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing.

**In my childminding home I will do the following to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread**

* I will ask all families to follow the [**COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) should a child, parent or any other member of their household display symptoms or discover that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. **Please do not attend my setting.**

*Your child will not be able to attend my setting for the duration of the recommended isolation period. As per my fees policy, full fees will still apply during this absence.*

* In addition to adhering strictly to this guidance along with my **Illness Policy** I will also request that for children to be kept at home for 7 days, even if they are displaying only minor symptoms that would normally be associated with a cough and cold. *Again, as per my fees policy, full fees will still apply during this absence.*
* If I, or anyone else within my household display symptoms or come into contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, government advice will be followed. I will notify families immediately and close my setting for the duration of the isolation period. *As per my fees policy, no fees will be charged during this time as I am unable to provide care. In the event of closure, I will try my best to assist parents and carers in finding alternative temporary childcare arrangements.*

Parents will be required to allow me to pass on their details in following the governments track and trace

I will make sure that all parental information is communicated electronically to avoid long conversations at greeting time or home time.

I will promote good hand and respiratory hygiene as described below .

I will promote good respiratory hygiene by: Encouraging the children and ensuring that I cover our mouths and noses with a clean tissue when we cough and sneeze and then promptly dispose of the tissue in a bin and wash our hands. If we do not have a tissue, we will cough or sneeze into the bend of our elbows instead, not into our hands.

 I will promote good hand hygiene, by:

washing our hands regularly.

 washing our hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty. If our hands are not visibly dirty, we will wash them with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser.

 We will wash our hands: -

 before and after we prepare food

 - before eating

 - before and after caring for sick individuals

 - after coughing or sneezing

 - when hands are dirty

 - after using the toilet

 - after changing a nappy

 - after handling animals or animal waste

I will restrict any unnecessary visitors to my home during childminding hours. Where it is considered necessary for a parent or guardian to enter my home, e.g. to help settle in a new child, social distancing between the parent/guardian and other adults will be observed. I will keep a record of anyone in my home on each day to facilitate Contact Tracing in the event of an episode of infection.

I will use a cloth face covering in enclosed indoor settings where it is not possible to keep a distance of 2 metres from others, when not caring for children.

I will not observe physical distancing measures with the children in my care, but I will try to maintain physical distancing from parents as far as possible.

**Hygiene measures and cleaning regimes**

 Where possible I will teach children how to clean their hands and about respiratory hygiene.

 Tissues and hand sanitisers / hand gel will be available at all times and will provide bins for

 Disposal of tissues

 I will ensure hand-washing facilities, including soap and clean towels/disposable towels, are

 Well maintained.

**I will increase the frequency and extent of cleaning regimes and ensure that they include**

 clean regularly touched objects and surfaces using a household cleaning product

 paying particular attention to high-contact areas

 wear rubber gloves when cleaning surfaces, wash the gloves while still wearing them, then

 wash my hands after I take them off.

**I will select and manage toys from an infection prevention viewpoint, by**

 choosing toys that are easy to clean and disinfect (when necessary) and dry.

 choosing puzzles and toys, that children are inclined to put in their mouth, that are

 capable of being washed and disinfected.

 discouraging children from putting shared toys into their mouths.

 storing clean toys/equipment in a clean container or clean cupboard.

 always following the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions.

 always washing my hands after handling contaminated toys and equipment.

**I will clean toys in the following way**

 All toys (including those not currently in use) will be cleaned on a regular basis, i.e.

 weekly .This will remove dust and dirt that can harbour germs.

 Toys that are used by very young children will be washed daily.

 Toys that children put in their mouths will be washed after use or before use by another

 child.

 All toys that are visibly dirty or contaminated with blood or body fluids will be taken out

 of use immediately for cleaning or disposal. Toys waiting to be cleaned must be stored

 separately.

Toys will be washed in warm soapy water, using a brush to get into crevices.

Toys will be rinsed in clean water and thoroughly dried

Toys that cannot be immersed in water i.e. electronic or wind up should be wiped with a clean damp cloth and dried.

**Disinfection procedure**

In some situations, toys/equipment may need to be disinfected following cleaning. For example:

 Toys/equipment that children will place in their mouths.

 Toys/equipment that have been soiled with blood or body fluids.

I will create a plan for dealing with myself or a child, becoming ill with symptoms of COVID-19.

I will have a small supply of surgical masks in a readily accessible place for use if someone develops symptoms of COVID-19.

If I or a child is in my home at the time that they feel unwell and develop symptoms, I will call all parents

If a child, or I, develop any symptoms of acute respiratory infection including cough, fever, or shortness of breath during the childminding day, I will keep my distance or the child at a distance from the other children until the parents arrive I will then remove myself or take the child to a designated area where the child can be isolated and attended to and stay with the child until the parent arrives.

In an emergency, I will call the ambulance, and explain that the child is unwell with symptoms of COVID-19.

 The room will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected once they leave.

If the affected person needs to use the bathroom whilst waiting for medical assistance, it will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected before use by others.

All individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their GP for further advice.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases should continue to self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days and should not return to the childcare setting until they are advised that it is safe to do so.

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