

04. Health Procedures

04.5(a) Managing a Suspected Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Our Approach

Your child's health and safety are always our priority. Although COVID-19 is now managed alongside other respiratory illnesses, we still follow clear procedures to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of infections.

Main Symptoms of Coronavirus

These are the symptoms we look out for:

- High temperature
- A new, continuous cough
(coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3+ coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- Loss or change in sense of smell or taste

We always refer to the latest government guidance (Next Steps for Living with COVID).

Important: Staff Do Not Diagnose

If we suspect COVID:

- We do not assume or diagnose anything ourselves
- Parents/carers are asked to seek medical advice (GP, NHS 111, or online)

If the child is seen by a medical professional and is:

- Not considered to meet testing criteria, and
- Is otherwise well,

they may return to nursery within the timeframe advised by the doctor and within line with our illness policy (04.05- poorly children.)

COVID procedures must never distract us from watching for signs of other serious illnesses.

When We Seek Emergency Help

Call 999 immediately if a child has ANY of the following:

- Stiff neck
- Rash that does *not* fade when pressed with a glass
- Sensitivity to light
- First-time seizure or fit
- Unusually cold hands or feet
- Pale, blotchy, blue, or grey skin
- A weak or high-pitched cry
- Extreme agitation (cannot be comforted) or confusion
- Difficulty breathing
- A bulging soft spot on the head (babies)
- Not responding normally

Parents are contacted straight away.

How Staff Prepare

All staff:

- Know this procedure
- Are trained in safe use/removal of PPE (aprons & gloves)
- Follow the NHS PPE guidance displayed in the setting

If a Child Becomes Unwell at Nursery

If a child develops any COVID-related symptoms while with us:

1. Parents are asked to collect the child immediately.
2. We follow the current national guidance:

 If a child tests positive for COVID-19

Government guidance states:

- They should try to stay home and avoid close contact with others for 5 days after the test
- They can return after 5 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature or any new symptoms of illness

- Children who *live with* someone who tests positive should continue attending nursery as normal
- 3. We stay in contact with the family and encourage testing via the NHS 111 online service.
- 4. Parents must tell us the test result as soon as possible.

If a Test Comes Back Positive

If a child's test is positive:

- We inform all families that a child in the setting has tested positive (*no names are ever shared*)
- Parents are reminded of the symptoms to watch for
- We notify our local authority
- Staff and management follow all current guidance for infection control