



# Implementing protective measures guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19) as of 24 February 2022

## Overview

The policy below sets out the pre-schools implementation to allow the continued safe opening of the setting and the daily routine.

## Risk assessment

The setting will directly address risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) so that sensible measures can be put in place to control the risks for children and staff. The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority. The pre-school reserves the right to close the setting should the safety of staff and/or children be at risk or on the advice of the Government. New strains of the virus are evaluated and acted upon accordingly, in line with Government and local authority guidelines, minimising the risk of infection.

## Attendance

The setting is currently open to children that attend this setting.

Should your child have any COVID-19 symptoms or is generally feeling unwell, do not bring them to the setting. Further guidance on COVID-19 symptoms and isolation/attendance is set out below.

If your child needs to have Calpol due to having a cold, or any other illness, please do not bring them into pre-school. If your child is absent due to illness, please contact the setting via email or telephone, explaining the reason for absence.

If your child feels unwell in pre-school or is not their usual self, we will phone you to collect them early.

A list of our recommended exclusion days for communicable illnesses are set out in our Prospectus.

We hope to operate with normal sessions however, should there be too many staff absences due to illness, we may have to close. All information on closures will be put onto the Our Schools App which should be regularly checked by parents/carers.

## Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

No one (staff, children, parents/carers) with symptoms should attend the setting for any reason. Families are asked to notify the setting as normal if their child is unable to attend – detailing the reason why.

If your child is showing any of the following symptoms, the setting will be unable to accept your child.

- high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

## Testing and isolation

If your child has any of the symptoms above they should take a PCR test and avoid contact with other people whilst awaiting the results. If you do not wish to take a PCR test, the setting still **requires you to stay at home and not attend for 5 days, or until they are feeling better to attend (whichever is the latest)**.

Children with COVID-19 should not attend pre-school whilst they are infectious. A LFD test should be taken from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they can return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

## Close contact with someone who has COVID-19

Children who usually attend the setting and live with someone who has COVID-19 may continue to attend the setting as normal, provided they are not showing any symptoms. However, to reduce this risk of infection advice is as follows, where possible:

- minimise contact with the person who has COVID-19
- avoid contact with anyone you know who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people
- pay close attention to the main symptoms of COVID-19. If you develop any of these symptoms, order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for your test result

Follow this advice for 10 days after the day the person you live or stayed with symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms).

## If you need to leave your home

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to self-isolate, the most effective way to avoid passing on COVID-19 infection is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. We understand that this is not always possible, but you should follow the guidance as closely as possible.

If you have COVID-19 and you need to leave your home while you are still infectious, you should take the following steps to reduce the chance of passing on the infection to others:

- wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask. This includes when dropping off and/or collecting your child
- avoid close contact with anyone you know who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- avoid crowded places. If you need to take public transport, avoid busy times, for example by using off peak services
- avoid large social gatherings and events, or anywhere that is poorly ventilated, crowded, or enclosed
- limit close contact with other people outside your household as much as possible. Meet outside and try and stay at least 2 metres apart from them
- take any exercise outdoors in places where you will not have contact with other people
- be especially careful with your hand and respiratory hygiene

## **Effective infection protection and control**

There are important actions that everyone attending the setting should take during the coronavirus outbreak to help prevent the spread of the virus. Preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions are employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates a safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly and use sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered, reducing the risk of transmission through touch
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as the child only attending one setting).

## **Sessions and opening times**

- The setting will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for morning and afternoon sessions. Each session will be for 3 hours.
- Friday sessions will be all day. Children are to bring in their packed lunch on a Friday (no nuts or fizzy drinks).
- Sessions times are as follows:
  - Morning: 8.25am – 11.25am
  - Afternoon: 11.55am – 2.55 pm
  - Friday: 8.25am – 2.55pm

## **Drop off and collection**

- Please ensure you arrive in time for the start of your child's session.
- Parents must not congregate by the green gates
- It is requested that only one parent/carer bring/collect their child.

## **Session routine (inc. snack and refreshments)**

- Children will be asked to wash and sanitise their hands (using recommended product for schools) as soon as they enter the setting, throughout the session and before they leave. Paper towels will be used to dry hands, to implement "catch it, bin it, kill it".
- Each child must bring a named water bottle with them to each session. This must contain water only.
- There will be snack given to each child during the session. Children will wash and sanitise their hands before and after snack time.
- Staff will wear PPE if they are required to administer first aid to your child. This will include gloves, apron and a face mask/shield
- Children will be outside as much as possible. Parents/carers must ensure that sun cream has been applied prior to arriving at the green gates and bring a named sun hat.

- Children are to dress in appropriate clothes for the weather and closed in shoes - no flip flops or sandals. We will go outside in all weathers (provided it is safe to do so) therefore, wellie boots should be brought into each session.
- All surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly with antibacterial cleaner, including all surfaces, equipment, door handles and toilets, several times a day.
- Children will not be permitted to bring any toys or comforters from home.
- Windows will be open to keep the setting well ventilated. The setting has been provided with an Air Quality Monitor by The Department for Education which is regularly checked.

### **Shielded and clinically vulnerable adults, children and young people**

Those previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should attend the setting and follow the same coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, personal advice may have been received from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice. Those with a weakened immune system should follow Guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk from COVID-19.

### **Communicating our plans**

The setting has communicated the following steps (which are under constant review):

- staff, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, must not to enter the setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. There will be no visits to the setting during this time. Any deliveries will be dropped off at the main gate.
- only one parent/carer should enter the setting when bringing/taking their child to/from the setting
- allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so, including protocols for minimising adult to adult contact
- parents/carers are not to gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely).
- staff are fully briefed about the plans (for example, safety measures, session changes and staggered arrival and departure times), including discussing whether training would be helpful

### ***When open***

The setting will endeavour to:

- ensure that staff and children are following the guidance to wash hands and sanitise more frequently.
- ensure that staff and children have their temperature taken at the start of each session.
- ensure that the setting is thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day using antibacterial solution

For cleaning and hygiene:

- the setting will be cleaned thoroughly each day, using antibacterial solution, follow the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, etc more regularly than normal
- ensure that all adults and children:
  - frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly

- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- get in touch with public sector buying organisation partners (for example ESPO, YPO, NEPO) about proportionate supplies of soap, anti-bacterial gel and cleaning products if needed
- there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in the setting

**Further guidance**

- Gov.uk website
- Early Years Alliance website

This policy was adopted by	Grove Road Pre-school
on	<hr/> February 2022
Date to be reviewed/Amended	<hr/> Ongoing – as new guidance is released