

HEALTH AND SAFETY

MANAGING THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION

In line with the various Dfe guidances about Covid-19,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

and in order to create a safer environment for children and staff, The Children's Garden will put in place a series of measures to substantially reduce the risk of transmission of infection, including:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have Covid-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend kindergarten
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- enhanced cleaning arrangements by regular cleaning of surfaces, toys, materials and the setting
- minimising contact and mixing between those in kindergarten and maintaining social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

This guidance states that *“Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. They have been used in schools in the summer term in recognition that children, and especially the youngest children, cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure. Maintaining distinct groups or ‘bubbles’ that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.”*

“Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of children who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to settings, as can those who have family members who are shielding. The current shielding advice is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#infection-prevention-and-control>)

HYGIENE

Following the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance, our staff members will:

- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching/sharing, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more frequently 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, when they return from break, 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 and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practice these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, all spaces should 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

Staff members and parents will be made aware that all clothes should be washed following a day in kindergarten. Fresh clothes should be worn the next day.

Our staff members will not require to wear PPE unless:

- they are tending to the intimate care needs of a child
- a child becomes unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 while in kindergarten and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people:

- wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as toilets, door handles.
- if an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
- wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning
- Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.
- Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.
- When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.
- Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.

RESPONSE TO ANY INFECTION

A child must be sent home to isolate if they become unwell with any one or more of:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

The child should start isolating and get a test. The child and their household, should follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

The Children's Garden will call the parents or carers to collect the child and take them home. Any siblings and other household members attending the early years setting will also need to be sent home at the same time.

The Children's Garden will advise the parent or carer that all household members will need to isolate, including siblings in other settings and those in a [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#), and follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The Children's Garden will ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to engage with the NHS test and trace process and be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and children must not come into the kindergarten if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in kindergarten. The test must be done within 5 days of having symptoms.
- Should they test positive, staff and families must immediately let the setting know and self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms.
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- if someone tests negative, and they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating.

As soon as The Children's Garden is aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), we will seek guidance from the local health protection team.

The Children's Garden will notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the setting (either child or staff member) or of advised closure as a result.

Updated August 2021