

## **Covid-19 policy**

Guidance for childcare and information for parents

Changes as of January 2022.

As you will all have seen in the press, cases of Omicron are virulent and spreading wildly. The symptoms seem to be those of a bad cold, mainly. Which makes it harder to detect. Although in most cases it appears to be a mild illness, the rules around isolation remain, please see below (Isolating rules have changed).

- On arrival at the setting children must be handed over whilst parents adhere to social distancing rules, keeping as far apart from us as and other parents/carers dropping off, as possible.
- Once we have welcomed the children, we will take them straight inside to wash their hands we will no longer take temperatures unless children seem unwell. Unfortunately, the handovers will still need to be quite prompt, so as not to distract the children and to enable us to carry out the above.
- Toys and equipment will be regularly cleaned through the day.
- Please do not bring in toys and items from home unless they are essential comforters and water cups.
- Children's hands will be washed regularly throughout the day.

If your child shows any signs of Covid-19, or has any symptoms please let us know as soon as possible and **keep them at home**, you will need to follow the guidelines and remain at home isolating. If they develop a fever or show other signs during their time with us, they will be quarantined as best we can and you will be contacted to collect them straight away. Please ensure that you are able to collect and are contactable throughout the day. We will need all emergency numbers to be available and answered should the need arise. This is very important.

### **CV Symptoms are;**

Continuous Cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hrs (nhs.co.uk), Fever/Temperatures, loss of taste and smell (which will be tricky to identify), Children may go off their food, or seem to not be enjoying it. Still in most cases especially children, they may not be showing any CV symptoms other than general cold symptoms. Although We cannot force you to get a PCR test, we would respectfully request that you do get one in order to rule Covid out, but daily LTF's while they are displaying cold symptoms would be advisable.

We will not be turning children away with cold symptoms or runny noses, unless of course they are unwell, this is not Covid-19 related but on our 'keep me home poster', as they should not be attending anyway if they are unwell.

**Isolating rules have changed.** You must isolate for 10 days, starting from the day symptoms show, if you are not showing symptoms but have had a PCR test as you have been in contact with someone who is positive, then the isolation day starts from the day you took the PCR test. Anyone in your household at this time, who has been fully vaccinated or who are under 18 years old will not need to isolate, unless they too are Positive or display symptoms. You may now be released on day 7 if you are double vaccinated and can demonstrate a negative test result on day 6 and 7 via a Lateral Flow (24hrs apart). If you are not showing symptoms and have tested positive on a Lateral flow test, you no longer need to follow it up with a PCR confirmation. The Isolation period will begin the day the test was positive if there were no symptoms.

### **When you do not need to self-isolate**

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS

you're under 18 years, 6 months old

you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial

you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons  
Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- [get a PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

All Staff and family members will be undergoing Rapid Covid testing twice weekly.