

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

0.1 Harpsden Pre-School COVID-19 policy

Background

As described in the government guidance, [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) (updated 17th August 2021)

'The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. Step 4 of the roadmap marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

[The government's priority] is for you to deliver face-to-face, high quality education and childcare to all children. The evidence is clear that being out of education and childcare causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

Responsibilities of early years providers

Settings are responsible for the following:

- *safeguarding - local agencies, services and settings should work together to actively look for signs of harm given the greater risk of harm that some children may have been exposed to through COVID-19*
- *supporting children's learning, development and wellbeing - continue to follow the [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)*
- *supporting vulnerable children"*

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Outbreak management plan

Harpsden Pre-School has an outbreak management plan in place which details the actions that would be taken in the event that a member of staff or children test positive and additional measures that would be taken if thresholds were met for additional action.

Control measures

This is the set of actions early years settings should take:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Based on this government guidance, Harpsden Pre-School has developed specific procedures for our setting to comply with this guidance and minimise the risk of transmission at our setting.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Handwashing facilities are available throughout the pre-school for staff and children: hand sanitiser stations are located at all entrances and there is running water and soap in the kitchen, toilets and outdoor area.

It is recommended that hands are washed/sanitiser is applied:

- upon entering the setting,
- after coughing, sneezing, touching your face,
- before and after eating
- after using wheeled bikes, trikes or other large equipment
- and on departure.

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Children will be supervised when doing this, especially if using hand sanitiser. Children will be helped to learn how to wash hands effectively, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered

Tissues will be available throughout the setting to implement 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. Lidded bins (operated by foot pedals), are situated throughout the setting so that used tissues can be immediately disposed into bins and these bins are emptied daily.

When changing nappies, staff to wear PPE (gloves, an apron and mask if staff feel they need this due to closer contact). Wearing PPE, wipe down mats after use with anti-bac spray and paper towels. Staff to use wipes provided by the setting for nappy changing.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

Surfaces that children and staff touch frequently, such as toys, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, will be cleaned regularly throughout the session.

The hall and toilets will be thoroughly cleaned after each session: all frequently touched surfaces wiped down with antibacterial spray, toilet seats and sink areas cleaned and the hall floor mopped.

Bins will be emptied after each session.

All toilets and sinks to be cleaned thoroughly at the end of the session by the caretaker.

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3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

The hall is well ventilated and sessions are held outside as much as possible. We have considered ventilation in our Covid-19 risk assessment and set out additional actions to address the risk.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, or has been notified by Track and Trace that they must self-isolate, must not attend the setting. This includes children attending our setting and the staff who work here.

Staff and children with a positive lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with Covid-19 guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/void-19-stay-at-home-guidance>). They will also need to book a PCR test and continue to self-isolate while awaiting the PCR result.

If a child or member of staff at the setting becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>), they must be sent home and must follow public health advice.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved to the Committee Room and supervised by a member of staff. PPE (a face mask, gloves and disposable apron) should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. A window should be opened for ventilation. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use the men's toilets. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues) should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished.

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The household (including any siblings) should follow PHE's stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (Covid-19) infection.

All teaching staff and volunteers at the pre-school will take part in the government's asymptomatic testing programme and carry out Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests twice a week. Test results will be reported to the NHS and a log will be kept at the pre-school to assist with contact tracing.

Attendance by extremely clinically vulnerable staff and children

Staff who are extremely clinically vulnerable (CEV) are advised by the government as a minimum to follow the same guidance as everyone else but they may wish to think about additional precautions they can continue to take. We will carry out a risk assessment for any CEV staff to support them with any additional precautions they wish to take.

All children who are extremely clinically vulnerable have been advised by the government to attend their setting unless they are one of the very small number of children who have been advised by their doctor not to.

Staff wellbeing

We appreciate that staff may continue to have concerns about the ongoing pandemic and the relaxation of government restrictions. Staff will be consulted on the new policies and procedures implemented and fully briefed and trained on any new ways of working prior at the start of term.

If staff have any worries or concerns, they are encouraged to contact either the Teaching Manager, the Business Manager or the Staff Liaison Officer.

Child wellbeing

We acknowledge that some children may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic such as anxiety, stress or low mood.

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The child's key person and other members of staff will be alert to any individual issues and draw on external support where necessary, such as MindEd (<https://minded.org.uk>) learning platform for professionals.

In the event of further closure or lockdown we will continue to support our children, maintaining contact with families and providing a weekly curriculum plan. Children and families will be contacted by their key person during the period of closure.

Drop-off and pick up procedures

Parents and carers are allowed into the setting at drop off and pick up. They are asked to use the hand sanitizer provided before entering the setting. They may wear a face covering if they would like to do so.

Face coverings

Government guidance states that wearing a face covering or face mask in Early Years setting is not recommended.

Face masks will only be worn in our setting in the following circumstances

- In line with our policy 6.4.1 Nappy Changing, gloves and disposable aprons will be worn when changing nappies. Staff may choose to wear a mask as well if needed to feel comfortable during closer contact.
- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in the setting and needs direct care until they can return home, a fluid-resistant surgical face mask, disposal gloves and a disposable apron should be worn by the supervising adult.
- At drop off/collection – staff members and parents/carers will wear masks at drop-off and collection

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In the event of a substantial increases in the number of cases in our setting, we may be advised by public health that face coverings are again worn by staff and visitors in communal areas.

Forest School

Forest School sessions will be designed taking COVID-19 into account. In particular:

- Omitting equipment that is shared or that encourages close contact with the face (eg. Binoculars, mirrors, magnifying glasses and some mud kitchen resources).
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Providing running water and soap for hand washing and paper towels for drying (lidded bin for waste)
- Providing correct hand sanitising and hygiene products

We are actively and regularly informing ourselves of all update HSE and government guidance.

Procedure for confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting

If the staff member/child attended the setting during the infectious period (2 days before symptoms onset (or test date if asymptomatic) to 10 days after), then the setting carries out an on-site risk assessment and refers to the Outbreak Management Plan.

The case should already be isolating at home and should remain in isolation until 10 days have passed from symptom onset. Children under 18 years and six months and double vaccinated adults will not need to self isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. They are strongly advised to take a PCR test and if this is positive, they will need to isolate.

The setting will send a warn and inform letter to all parents. For staff cases, the setting will follow workplace guidance to ensure staff contacts are identified (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance>).

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The setting will also notify Ofsted and the local authority Oxfordshire County Council:

Educationcovid19@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

If the setting has 2 or more confirmed cases or requires advice about a potential outbreak situation, you must notify the Local Authority (as above) and call Thames Valley Health Protection Team (HPT) on 03442253861 (08449670083 out of hours). If the matter is not urgent you can email the HPT on TVPHE@phe.gov.uk Settings should contact the local health protection team (Thames Valley Health Protection Team). This team will also contact settings directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the setting – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

Government Guidance

This policy was compiled in reference to the following government publications:

- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (Updated 17th August 2021)
- Public Health England – PHE SE Covid-19 Flowchart for Educational settings (v04.00)

This policy was adopted by	Harpsden Pre-School	
On	6 th September 2021	(date)
Date to be reviewed	December 2021	(date)
Signed on behalf of the Provider		
Name of signatory	Mrs Jemima Pettifer	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Chairperson	