

## **Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy**

### **Aim**

It is our policy to keep children safe when they are in our care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within our childcare setting and while we are off site.

### **Procedures**

In light of Covid-19, we will be asking parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/ household in order to protect others that are using our service and our own family. We will share updates about our own family's health.

### **Sick children – Covid-19**

If a child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, they must be collected and parents will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#). See also : [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) coronavirus (covid-19)

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a ventilated room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use the cloakroom which will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

We will wear appropriate PPE when caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). If a childminder is at risk of being splashed in the face through coughing, sneezing, vomiting etc. appropriate PPE will be worn.

If a childminder has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or change to their sense of smell or taste, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. They will wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds

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after any contact with someone who is unwell and the affected area will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant

Should we or any family member develop symptoms of coronavirus we will get tested, self-isolate for seven days and fellow household members will self-isolate for 14 days. In this circumstance, you will not be charged for any period that I have to close my setting and I will help you find alternative childcare if required.

The childminders, other household members and children who attend my setting will be able to access a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where a child tests negative, they can return to the setting and their household members can end their self-isolation in accordance with government guidance.

Where a child, childminder or other household member tests positive for COVID-19, the other children within my setting will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of these families do not need to self-isolate unless their child subsequently develops symptoms.

### Other Illnesses

If there is a child in our setting who becomes ill whilst in our care, or whom we believe has an infectious illness or disease (for example a severe cold or stomach upset) we will;

- Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
- Ensure the child is excluded from our setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with Health Authority guidelines.

We make parents aware of the **sickness exclusion periods** in the **Parent Information Booklet** at the beginning of their contract with us and keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in our setting.

We will ask parents/carers to inform us as soon as practicably possible if their child/ren becomes unwell with a communicable illness. These are infections or illnesses caused by bacteria, virus or fungi which can be passed from person to person either directly or indirectly. We are unable to take care of a child until they are better and pose no risk of infection to other children.

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### Guidance on exclusion period for communicable diseases

INFECTION	EXCLUSION
Coronavirus (Covid-19)	See above section: Sick children – Covid-19
Chickenpox	5 days from the onset of the rash and until all the blisters have dried
Cold sores	None
Conjunctivitis	Until treated
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	No symptoms for 48 hours
Flu	1 week
German Measles	6 days from the onset of the rash
Glandular Fever	None
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None
Head lice	None after treatment
Impetigo	48 hours after treatment has started
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Mumps	1 week from onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	None after treatment has started
Scabies	1 day after treatment has started
Scarlet Fever	48 hours after treatment started
Slapped cheek disease	Until clinically well (sometimes no exclusion)
Threadworm	None
Tonsillitis	None
Whooping cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics or 3 weeks if left untreated

### Reporting a notifiable disease or illness

If we believe a child in our setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification We will inform the parents/guardians of our concerns and act on advice given by Public Health England(details of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> as to when they will be able to return to our setting. We will also inform Ofsted of any action taken. **(Ofsted Notification form available online at: [https://ofstedonline.ofsted.gov.uk/outreach/Ofsted\\_Statutory\\_Notification.ofml](https://ofstedonline.ofsted.gov.uk/outreach/Ofsted_Statutory_Notification.ofml))**

### Fees

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents we expect to be paid for the child's place even if they are excluded from our setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

If either childminder, or one of the members of our family, has a confirmed infectious disease, we will inform parents as soon as we are able. If we will not be able to offer our

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childminding service we do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

We will inform the parents of the other children in our setting if a child we care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

### Hygiene

In light of COVID-19 we will take the following measures to help prevent germs spreading:

- Carry tissues with me and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. I will bin the tissue, and wash my hands, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel.
- Wash my hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Display posters that show good hygiene and hand washing practice
- Avoid touching our eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We will also use [e-bug resources](#) to provide a range of fun lesson plans on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

We ensure all adults and children in our setting are aware of good hand-washing procedures and will support them to wash their hands in line with Government guidance.

We ask parents to provide nappies, baby wipes and a folding changing mat (to be carried in their nappy changing bag) for their child.

We ensure there is a supply of tissues available for children, and help children to learn how to catch their sneezes and coughs.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations;

- Intimate care needs e.g nappy changing
- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in the setting in accordance with relevant Government guidance.

We will immediately clean up any spillage of body fluids using a disposable cloth and gloves

We ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk. We ensure that litter trays and pet food dishes are kept away from children.

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We have read and understand the illness and infectious diseases policy

Childminder's name	Lorna Ford
Childminder's signature	
Date	28-5-2020
Childminder's name	David Ford
Childminder's signature	
Date	28-5-2020
Parent name	
Parent signature	
Date	
Parent name	
Parent signature	
Date	
Date policy was written	28-5-2020
This policy is due for review on the following date	28-5-2021

**This policy supports the following requirements and standards:**

**England**

Meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements

**Health, Medicines**

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