

Mama Bear's Day Nursery			POLICY No: 05-409a
COVID-19 – Policy Last updated 01/04/22			

This policy reflects the changes from Government restrictions to personal responsibility and how this is managed within the nursery settings.

On 21st February 2022 the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's Covid 19 response. Covid 19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce disruption to children's education remains.

This policy includes Public Health advice, endorsed by the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Throughout the policy the terms 'must' and 'should' are used. The term 'must' is used when the person in question is legally required to do something and 'should' is used when the advice set out should be followed.

Individuals previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable

Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the Covid 19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable and higher risk are not being advised to shield again. If people were previously identified as being in one of these groups, they are advised to continue to follow the guidance contained in the guidance - Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread, which is available on the gov.uk website.

Vaccination

We recommend all staff take up the offer of a vaccine and boosters.

Risk Assessment

Each setting has their own risk assessment for covid 19 which puts into place proportionate control measures. These are reviewed regularly and are treated as living documents as the circumstances in the setting and the public health advice changes.

Each setting must complete the COVID-19 Health and Safety Checklist and carry out a Risk Assessment addressing the risks associated with COVID-19, ensuring best endeavours are in place to control risks for children and staff. The Risk Assessment must cover all areas of this Policy, be setting specific and detailed and adhered to at all times. These documents must be working documents and updated in line with any changes or new legislation.

Asymptomatic Testing

The Asymptomatic testing programme has now ceased and staff who participated in the twice weekly testing programme no longer need to do this.

Free Testing

Free Covid testing for the general public ends on 1st April as part of the Living with Covid Plan.

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Guidance as of 1st April 2022

As of 1st April, persons with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including Covid-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, are advised try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and no longer have a high temperature.

From 1st April, anyone with a positive Covid-19 test result will be advised to try and stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days – which is when most infectious. As free testing has ended, there is no need to have 2 negative test results before returning to normal activity.

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to nursery when they no longer have a temperature and do not need temperature-controlling medication such as Calpol to minimise a temperature and providing they are well enough in themselves to attend.

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.

The nursery manager reserves the right to not admit children or ask that they be collected if they become unwell at nursery or develop a temperature.

Our existing sick child policy applies effective of 1st April 2022.

For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:

Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children’s social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish new guidance. Most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings will be withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April. The operational guidance on the testing in education settings document sharing platform will also be removed on the same day.

Those persons not fully vaccinated, who have been a close contact of a positive case of covid 19 are no longer required to self isolate.

Those fully vaccinated who are identified as a close contact of a positive case of Covid 19 are no longer required to test daily for 7 days and can continue with normal activity.

Routine Contact tracing has now ceased. Contacts no longer are required to self isolate or

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advised to take daily tests. Staff and children should continue to attend nursery as usual. This includes staff who have been a close contact of someone in their household.

Reminder for education and childcare settings on distributing existing stocks of self-test kits

Now that regular asymptomatic testing in mainstream education and childcare settings is no longer advised, you may have surplus stock of self-test kits that are no longer required.

UKHSA will issue further communications in due course about how to manage any excess stock of test kits from Friday 1 April. **Please do not hand out any test kits to staff, pupils, or students unless advised by your local health protection team, local authority or director of public health.** Expired stock is classified as municipal waste and may be disposed of with other waste.

Procedures

- All parents are welcomed back into the nursery with no restrictions. Parents therefore will come into the setting at each drop off and collection
- Parents are welcome to stay for settling in sessions with their child
- Face to face parent meetings will resume and replace telephone meetings for baselining, transition meetings, 2-year progress check meetings and parent and key person consultations
- Face coverings are optional and not mandatory by any person in the setting
- We will continue with enhanced hygiene procedures, including handwashing and promoting good hygiene practices
- We will continue to maintain enhanced cleaning procedures including daily frequent cleaning of touch points throughout the nursery through use of daily cleaning logs and daily fogging of the nursery premises
- We will continue to keep environments well ventilated
- We will continue to inform parents of any positive cases of Covid within the nursery by placing a sign on the nursery door as we do with all illnesses identified within the nursery
- Where there has been a positive confirmed case of Covid 19 within the setting, the Covid checklist must be completed by the most senior member of staff on site at the time and sent to the Operations Director.

Children with a temperature

Children with a temperature or are unwell should not attend nursery which has always been the policy prior to the pandemic. Children with a temperature cannot return to nursery until after the temperature has ceased and medication is not required to manage this. (except in the cases of teething or following vaccinations – see below)

Administration of temperature controlling medication (calpol)

If your child has been administered Calpol or similar to control a temperature prior to their nursery

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session for any reason other than teething or following medical advise following a vaccination they should not attend nursery.

If a child becomes unwell during the nursery session with a temperature we will contact parents and with permission will administer Calpol whilst awaiting collection – the child will not be able to return until the temperature has ceased and medication is not required to control a temperature.

We will administer Calpol for teething pain and also following children having received their vaccinations. Parents should provide this in a clearly named bottle and a medication form will need to be completed. However if a child appears to not be well enough to be in nursery we reserve the right to request they are collected.

Disruption to service

Please note, whilst our settings are open and staffed accordingly, there may be periods throughout the pandemic where settings may not be able to accept all children into Nursery, or where we have to offer a reduced service, for example where we are unable to maintain legal staffing ratio requirements. We will always inform parents of any disruptions as soon as we are able, but this may not be possible until the actual day when we are unable to accept children. Where we know this will impact a setting, we will inform parents through ParentZone to advise of any disruption as early as possible.

Quite often we are notified of a positive case out of hours or during the weekend so it is likely that such notifications and information may reach families with very little notice.

We will always inform families of any disruption as soon as is possible,

Enhanced measures – Outbreak Management

We are required to have in place a Covid Outbreak Management Plan outlining how we will operate if there is an outbreak in our setting or nationally / locally where additional measures are required. Should this need to be implemented we will inform all families of this.

The above will only be applied if advised to do so by the Local Public Health England Health Protection Team, through statutory guidance or where we are experiencing a number of positive cases within a nursery which is impacting or likely to impact our staff, families and the service we can provide. and is not an exhaustive list of measures. Any such measures and action will be communicated to parents and carers through Parentzone emails.

Visitors to the Nursery

Visitors are permitted in the nursery as per pre pandemic guidelines.

External Professionals visits

External professionals visiting can resume.

Outings

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Outings can resume – with a full risk assessment in place, our outings policy being implemented fully and good hygiene practice to be maintained on outings – such as the use of hand sanitizers.

Dual Placements

Children can once again attend more than one setting but parents must advise us what other setting their child is attending and if they are claiming funding across more than one setting must inform us how many hours of universal and extending funding they are using with the other providers.

This policy will be reviewed and updated in line with any changes to guidance and legislation.