



Dolphins Pre-school Covid-19 sickness procedure



*This procedure should be read in conjunction with our main policies 1.7 'Promoting Health & Hygiene' and more specifically 1.7.2 'Children who are sick and infectious'.
If Covid-19 symptoms are displayed, this procedure will take precedence.*

What happens if someone becomes unwell while at Dolphins Pre-school?

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough/ has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) as well as a **high temperature**, the following guidance should be observed.

IMPORTANT If an adult / child has tested positive in the last 90 days they should not seek a PCR test and staff are advised not to undertake LFD asymptomatic testing during that 90 day period.

If a child in our setting becomes unwell with Covid-19 symptoms:

- Parents will be contacted for an **immediate collection**. While waiting to be collected, the child will be moved to a 'safe zone': one of the dressing rooms / an isolated outdoor space.
- A nominated member of staff in PPE will look after the sick child until collected
- The safe zone is one of the dressing rooms (if wet) / an isolated outdoor space (if dry). This zone will undergo deep cleaning following use.
- The child will be made as comfortable as possible and some toys will be available as well as a comforting adult.
- If the child needs to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they will use the adult toilet. The bathroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using appropriate cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- If they become seriously ill or we think their life is at risk we will call 999.
- The member of staff looking after the child does NOT need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting?' below). Similarly, other children/staff do NOT need to go home.
- Any member of staff who helps the child will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after helping the child who is unwell. The affected area will be thoroughly cleaned after the person with symptoms has left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to others.
- The symptomatic child **should remain at home** for a minimum of 3 days (ideally 5) from when their symptoms started.

- After 3 days (ideally 5), if they do not have symptoms including **high temperature** (and are fit and well) they do not need to continue to isolate. If they still have symptoms including a **high temperature** (and not fit and well) they must continue to isolate until their symptoms have gone and temperature returns to normal.
- If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they should stay at home for at least 5 days from when the symptoms appeared (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms). Please bear this in mind when arranging for your child to be dropped off and collected.

If an adult in our setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

- The symptomatic adult **will leave immediately and remain at home** for 5 days from when their symptoms started.
- After 5 days, if they do not have symptoms, they do not need to continue to isolate. If they still have symptoms, they should continue to isolate. They do not need to isolate if they only have a cough or anosmia as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.
- In the event that the individual is a Pre-school Practitioner, their group will be immediately covered for the rest of the day by another member of staff.
- We will endeavour to provide appropriate cover for that Pre-school Practitioner's group until it is safe for them to return.

IMPORTANT If an adult / child has tested positive in the last 90 days they should **NOT** seek a PCR test and staff are advised not to undertake LFD asymptomatic testing during that 90 day period.

What happens to the other children/adults in the group if there is a suspected case in the setting?

- Other children / staff do NOT need to remain away from the setting in the event of a suspected case (unless a sibling attends the same setting) unless they display symptoms.
- If the child/adult gets a negative result, he/she can return once well. If they still have symptoms, they may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug. They should stay at home until they feel well and for at least 2 more days if they have had diarrhoea or vomiting. Seek medical attention if they are concerned about their symptoms.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting?

- If someone in the group develops symptoms themselves they should isolate
- Household members of those who are sent home do NOT need to self-isolate themselves subsequently developing symptoms. (See above)
- If a test result is positive they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for 5 days (U18's a minimum of 3 days but ideally 5) from the onset of their symptoms
- If other cases are detected within the setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams may conduct a rapid investigation and advise on the most appropriate action to take particularly in relation to close contacts.

The definition of a close contact is:

- Anyone who lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation
 - within 1 metre skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
 - been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact or added up together over 1 day)
 - travelled in the same vehicle or a plane
- Closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary due to measures in place.
 - In the event of a confirmed case and it has been less than 48 hours since they were in the setting:
 - We notify parents and staff in writing
 - Identify close contacts and the progress of the case
 - In the event that we meet the escalation criteria for support from the regional PHE Health Protection Team:
 - As above plus
 - We will contact the HPT directly for advice

Dolphins Pre-school reserves the right to refuse a child / adult if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Such decisions will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.