



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 or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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 be left 72 hours before 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 or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting?' below)
- 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 family of the symptomatic child will PHONE 119 to request a test.** Children under 5 can also book a test on NHS online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> (Please see below 'What happens to the other children/teacher in that bubble while awaiting for test results to come back?')

Anyone they have been in close contact with will then be contacted and told to stay home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to prevent them from potentially spreading the virus.

The symptomatic child **will remain at home** for **10** days from when their symptoms started or until a negative test result is produced. NOTE: If they test positive, they will be contacted by NHS test and trace service within 24 hours, which will help establish who they have been in contact with and could have infected.

- After 10 days, if they do not have a high temperature, they do not need to continue to isolate. If they still have a high temperature, they must continue to isolate until their temperature returns to normal. They do not need to isolate if they only have a cough or anosmia after 10 days, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. After 10 days the child can return to the setting as long as they have been afebrile (no temperature) for the last 72 hours.
- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and **not leave the house for 14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. For this reason, if your child is to resume attending after 10 days, arrangements will need to be made for someone with no symptoms and living outside the household to drop off and collect the child.
- If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. 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 10 days from when their symptoms started OR until a negative test result is produced.
- After 10 days, if they do not have symptoms, they do not need to continue to isolate. If they still have symptoms, they must continue to isolate. They do not need to isolate if they only have a cough or anosmia after 10 days, 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.
- The adult will be tested as soon as possible as this is already available to all essential workers.

What happens to the other children/adults in the group while awaiting for test results to come back?

- Government guidance **remains unclear** on this point as documentation only provides information on what to do with the rest of the bubble group ONCE the child/teacher displaying symptoms have been tested and a positive/negative result has been obtained. Further guidance is awaited.
- 111 service (Reference 3541 23052020) Mr. Joe G., senior health advisor, advised the following.
- The symptomatic child/adult goes home for 10 days but children/adults in that group CAN CONTINUE TO ATTEND unless they start to display symptoms.
- If the child gets a negative result, he/she can return after the 10 days.
- If the child gets a positive result they will be contacted by NHS test and trace service within 24 hours and he/she stays home for 10 days from symptoms started. If you have not had symptoms, the 10 days starts from when you had the test.
- NHS test & trace will help establish who the child has been in contact with and could have infected. The rest of the children in the group must then remain home for 14 days unless otherwise directed by NHS. PHE will support the setting to identify those close contacts who will need to be advised to self-isolate and any further testing required.

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

- If a child or an adult develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days.
- Their household should self-isolate for 14 days.
- All staff and adults who are in that group will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to **get tested** in this scenario.
- Where the child or adult **tests negative**, they can return to their setting and their household members can end their self-isolation.
- If they get a **positive** result, the symptomatic child/adult and anyone they live with should keep self-isolating.
- Where a child or adult **tests positive**, the rest of their group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- The other household members of a child/adult from that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child/adult in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

- As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and advise on the most appropriate action to take.
- Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.
- If a member of staff or child attending the setting tests positive for coronavirus, we shall report the case to PHE SE Health Protection Team on 03442 253861. They will then liaise with the local Health Protection Team and provide any necessary information / support.
- If there is an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected), the HPT will advise whether any further action is needed. In some cases, they may recommend a larger group self-isolate as a precautionary measure or where an outbreak is confirmed (and in consultation with the local Director of Public Health), they may dispatch a mobile testing unit

For further information on the above, please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>