



## 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). 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 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 10 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 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. After 10 days the child can return to the setting as long as they have been afebrile (no temperature or other symptoms) for the last 72 hours.
- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and **not leave the house for 10 days**. The 10-day period starts from symptom onset. 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 (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full days, regardless of what day they are on in the original 10 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?

- Other children / staff do NOT need to remain away from the setting in the event of a suspected case (unless a sibling attending the same setting) unless they display symptoms.
- If the child gets a negative result, he/she can return once well.
- 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.
- NHS test & trace will help establish who the child has been in contact with and could have infected. The DfE helpline / Surrey & Sussex Health Protection Team (HPT) 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 10 days starting from the day the individual's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full 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 once well 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 10 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:
  - a) report the case to the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687 and act on the advice given.
  - b) Inform the Local Authority [eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk), stating whether it is an adult or child and giving their initials
  - c) Inform Ofsted using their dedicated on-line portal
  
- We will follow the COVID-19 Escalation Criteria when contacting the Health Protection Team (part of Public Health England) using the new referral form if:
  - a) 10% (or more) of a setting is affected within 14 days – for example, if there are 3 or more confirmed cases in staff or children of COVID-19 in a setting of 30 people
  - b) 3 (or more) bubbles within the setting contain at least one confirmed case
  - c) There have been any admissions to hospital of children or staff members due to COVID-19

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.