



## 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>

**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 staff member or child does test positive however they must self-isolate for 10 days unless they are exempt (see below)

**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 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 in line with current government guidance.** Children under 5 can also book a test on NHS online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>

Anyone they have been in close contact with will then be contacted, 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.
- 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.

**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 staff member or child does test positive however they must self-isolate for 10 days unless they are exempt (see below)

## 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 attends the same setting) unless they display symptoms.
- If the child/adult gets a negative result, he/she can return once well.
- If the child/adult 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 establish who the child/adult has been in contact with and could have infected. The DfE helpline / Surrey & Sussex Health Protection Team (HPT) may also support the identify any close contacts who need to be advised to self-isolate / any further testing required.

Double-vaccinated adults who have been identified as a contact of a positive Covid case will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test (though this is not a legal requirement), instead of self-isolating. They will not need to self-isolate while awaiting their test results though they should minimise social contact during this time and take appropriate measures.

Adults over 18 and not double-vaccinated need to self-isolate if contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Under 18s identified as a contact of a positive Covid case will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test (though this is not a legal requirement). They will not need to self-isolate.

For under-fives, a PCR test will only be advised if the positive Covid case is a member of their own household.

The child may continue to attend the setting while waiting for the PCR test result. The child should self-isolate if the test is positive or the child develops COVID-19 symptoms.

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

- If someone in the group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 10-day isolation period, they should get a PCR test.
- Household members of those who are sent home do NOT need to self-isolate themselves unless the child / adult who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. (See above)

- If the test is negative, they should inform the setting as soon as possible and must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- If the test result is positive they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least ten days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 10-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when they first displayed symptoms.

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
- As part of the national test and trace programme, 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.
  - Closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary due to measures in place.
  - In the event of 1 confirmed adult / child case (LFD or PCR test result) associated with the setting and it's been 48 hours since they were in the setting:
    - We report the case to Ofsted and to [eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
    - If an adult LFD positive result they will be advised to take a confirmatory PCR test.
  - In the event of 1 confirmed case (LFD or PCR test result) and it has been less than 48 hours since they were in the setting:
    - We report the case to Ofsted and [eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
    - We notify parents and staff in writing
    - Identify close contacts (NOTE: U5's who are close contacts of a confirmed case in their early years setting are not advised to seek a PCR test). We are required to inform the self-isolation Hub on 020 3743 6715 of any PCR confirmed employee case / staff contacts of that case. This ensures Test & Trace are aware and can follow-up. As such you will need to notify Dolphins of the CTAS number (8 digit number included in the NHS notification of the positive test result).
  - In the event two confirmed cases in the same group:
    - As above plus
    - We will call the DfE Helpline as this may constitute an outbreak and involve the regional PHE Health Protection Team

- 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.*

*Individuals on low incomes, whose children are required to self-isolate, may be eligible for the one-off £500 Test and Trace support payment.*