



## Coronavirus Nursery Reinstatement Policy

### Coronavirus arrangements for nursery operations and service delivery

#### **Coronavirus arrangements for nursery operations and service delivery at Monkey Puzzle Golders Green.**

The policy provides details of the conditions and considerations that ensure that we minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus, having been formed using guidance from the Department for Education<sup>[1]</sup>, Ofsted, and Public Health England<sup>[2]</sup>.

This policy is complimented by a series of Standard Operating Procedures that detail the nursery's specific approach in delivery of and adherence to this policy.

This policy is in addition to the current policies in place at the nursery, and must always be referenced and implemented. The full policies and procedures are available at all times during the nursery day and can be provided by email upon request.

#### **Context**

From 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 parent/carers were asked by the government to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for nurseries and education settings to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Nurseries and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parent/carers are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 it was announced that nurseries and education settings could resume their full service and begin caring for a wider range of children as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 (subject to final confirmation on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020).<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **What is COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called coronavirus. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss of taste/smell.

What do we need to do?

Everyone must take precautions to help stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading. Washing your hands with soap and water often will help to reduce the risk of infection. Mild coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms can usually be treated at home but if the symptoms named above are experienced even mildly, a 7-14 day isolation period must follow..

Why do we need to take precautions?

Scientific study and evidence available to date indicates that children are in a low risk category and child-to-adult transmission appears to be uncommon<sup>[4][5]</sup>. Despite this we need to take precautions to safeguard the all in our nursery including our workforce and to parents, as we continue to provide the childcare that enables our nation to function. By providing childcare with rigorous adherence to hygiene and infection control processes we will be contributing to minimising the spread of the virus.



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#### Identifying symptoms

Public Health England have suggested that COVID-19 should be suspected in any individual with a new continuous cough and/or high temperature (at least 37.8°C)<sup>[2]</sup> and/or loss of smell/taste.

#### Safer systems of work

This policy outlines our approach in providing a safe environment for children and adults, describing the adjustments we make to aspects of the nursery, its environment and the tasks carried out as part of a normal nursery day. These have all been carefully reviewed to ensure effective infection protection and control using the following hierarchy of controls<sup>[4]</sup> to substantially reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus:

1. minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend nursery
2. cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
3. ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
4. cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
5. minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

#### Attendance at the nursery

We welcome all children and staff who are not displaying coronavirus symptoms<sup>[6]</sup>. Anyone who has experienced symptoms must have completed the required isolation period<sup>[7]</sup> of 7 days for coronavirus or have a confirmed negative test<sup>[8]</sup> before returning to the nursery.

We will be limiting access to the nursery building as far as possible to just children and workforce, to provide the greatest level of safety and a minimal risk of transmission. Visitors will not be permitted unless essential or critical to the nursery continuing its service, and where these visits are required these should be made outside of the usual nursery operational hours where possible.

#### Travel to the nursery

Wherever possible, families and staff should travel to the nursery alone, using their own transport. Where transport is shared, these journeys should be made with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at one time.

If public transport is necessary, there is an escalated risk of transmission given the limited space available for the number of passengers and the high touch contact points such as ticket machines, handrails, and seats. Depending on the nursery's location it may be necessary to take additional steps for those who use public transport as part of their journey to and from the nursery such as staff only changing into and out of uniform once inside the setting and car sharing.



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#### Social Distancing

A major tactic in reducing the transmission of coronavirus is to minimise the physical interaction between individuals. This is known as Social Distancing and describes the way in which we occupy spaces with other people, moving and adapting to allow adequate space in between, minimising the risk of transmission of the virus by touch or coughs and sneezes. It is commonly advised that a two metre distance between individuals is sufficient.

While the government and nursery providers recognise that it is not possible for young children to social distance all the time<sup>[9]</sup>, we will implement a series of other measures to mitigate this risk in line with guidance. These measures are covered in our standard operating procedures and include ensuring children only mix in small consistent groups at nursery with designated staff, using its overall capacity to create several small groups, each consisting of no more than 6 children, and that contact between these groups is minimised where practicable.

#### Handwashing

Hand hygiene is an important measure to prevent the transmission of viruses. Regular thorough handwashing must be in place for adults and children. As a minimum, this handwashing should take place;

- upon arrival at the nursery
- when returning from the outside area
- before mealtimes
- after sneezing
- after care routines such as nappy changing, applying lotions etc

#### Clean Environment

Effective cleaning practises carried out regularly significantly reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus. The nursery environment should be one that is clean throughout and an enhanced cleaning schedule must be implemented to include;

- Regular cleaning of the communal areas such as entrances and routes to toilets
- Regular disinfection of high contact points
- Laundry carried out in accordance with NHS guidelines<sup>[10]</sup>
- Uniform being washed ideally after each use within the nursery premises
- Appropriate waste storage and regular disposal schedule

#### Arrivals and departures at the nursery site

We will be asking parents to drop off and collect children at the designated nursery entrance and not to enter the nursery unless invited to by nursery management. To reduce the risk of transmission, parents will be asked to observe social distancing, waiting in a safe area designated by the nursery.

The nursery may allocate drop off and collection times so that the nursery can safely manage the number of individuals on-site at any one time. This judgement should be made by nursery management according to the available space for staff and parents (including their children), allowing two metres between one individual and another.



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Visitors should not be permitted to the nursery unless essential. Their visit should be planned and their arrival confirmed by a telephone call in advance of arriving at the designated nursery entrance to allow for preparations to be made.

Items brought from home will not be permitted in the nursery unless it is an essential item needed for the nursery day, and being without it will cause a child distress. Essential items will be agreed in advance by parents and nursery management.

#### Health Checks & Screening

The ongoing assessment and screening of children and staff members on site is critical to minimising the ongoing risk at the nursery. One signifier of coronavirus is a raised temperature but that is not a symptom that is unique to coronavirus and may indicate a wide range of possible infections or illness.

Anyone displaying a temperature of 37.8°C or above, either upon arrival or during the nursery day, will need to leave the nursery and be required to isolate<sup>[7]</sup> for 7 days or until a negative test result has been confirmed.

#### Personal Protective Equipment - PPE

Additional PPE in the nursery is not required<sup>[11]</sup> beyond what we would normally wear for regular care routines, even in scenarios where a two metre distance cannot be maintained.

Additional PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- Caring for children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs, should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in the nursery, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising staff member whilst waiting for a parent to collect. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

#### Responding to a person displaying symptoms of coronavirus

##### A child displaying symptoms

In the event of a child developing suspected coronavirus symptoms whilst attending the nursery, they should be collected as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with the NHS guidance<sup>[12]</sup>.

Whilst waiting for a parent/carer to collect the child, they should be isolated from others in a previously identified room or area. If possible, a window should be opened for ventilation. The team member most closely associated with their care should care for them on a 1:1 basis. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for the team member if appropriate.

If the child becomes very unwell, it may be necessary to call 111 or 999. Normal procedures on child illness must be observed.

Enhanced cleaning should then take place targeted to the areas of the nursery the child had accessed.

##### A team member displaying symptoms



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In the event of a team member developing coronavirus symptoms whilst attending nursery, they should leave the nursery as soon as possible and isolate at home in line with NHS guidance<sup>[13]</sup>. If they are unable to travel alone, they should wait in a previously identified room or area. If possible, a window should be opened for ventilation.

The team member will apply to have a coronavirus test conducted<sup>[14]</sup>, where priority is afforded to childcare workers as an essential worker<sup>[15]</sup>.

Targeted and enhanced cleaning should then take place in the areas of the nursery the team member had accessed. More details are available in the SOP for responding to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

### Supplies

The nursery will require key supplies such as food, cleaning items, and personal protective equipment and a supplier network has been established to ensure that these essential supplies reach the nursery. These essential items will be purchased in sufficient quantity and with regularity to ensure ample stock is available on site. Where an unforeseen disruption to nursery supplies occurs, the Monkey Puzzle Day Nurseries group will support in sourcing the required items from alternative suppliers or in emergencies from within the nursery group itself.

The delivery of supplies will be carefully managed with an approach that suits the nursery's particular circumstances and that ensures appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures are maintained when on nursery premises.

### Related guidance

This policy is to be applied in conjunction with the nursery specific standard operating procedures (SOP) for Nursery Reinstatement Post-COVID-19

### References

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/>
4. <https://dontforgetthebubbles.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-data-top-10.pdf>
5. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19-rapid-risk-assessment-coronavirus-disease-2019-ninth-update-23-april-2020.pdf>
6. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>
7. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/>
8. <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>
9. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
10. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/how-to-prevent-germs-from-spreading/>
11. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/>
12. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-in-children/>
13. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>
14. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>
15. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#list-of-essential-workers-and-those-prioritised-for-testing-england-only>



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<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>21 May 2020</i>		<i>21 June 2020</i>