

## 6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

### Policy statement

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

During a COVID-19 outbreak, any child showing symptoms, such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; loss or taste or smell, the following sequence of actions need to be taken:

- Child presents with symptoms; parents are requested to collect child and seek diagnosis from GP or take further advice from NHS 111.
- Child's parents are requested to inform setting of outcome/diagnosis and keep child at home for the recommended exclusion period. For cases of suspected Coronavirus, staff and service users must adhere to current Government advice regarding self-exclusion even if no symptoms are present.
- For confirmed cases of a notifiable disease and Coronavirus the pre-school will contact their local Health Protection Team (HPT) as soon as possible for further guidance. The manager will inform and retain a confidential record.
- Acting on the advice of the local HPT, the pre-school will either:
  - close for a set period and undertake a deep clean
  - carry on as usual but also undertake a deep clean
- If a notifiable disease is confirmed, staff must inform the manager immediately and Ofsted must be informed within 14 days. Cases of confirmed Coronavirus should be treated as a notifiable disease.
- A deep clean is undertaken at the soonest opportunity following any illness outbreak. Hand hygiene messages are reinforced and staff are vigilant to any further signs of infection.
- The manager continues to liaise with the HPT as required and keeps a full record of children affected, how long they are away from the pre-school and the date on which they return.

Coronavirus. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Please be vigilant, if you have travelled to infected areas or come into contact with people who have returned from said areas.

## **Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the supervisor will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital thermometer, kept above the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- We can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the pre-school.
- After diarrhoea and sickness, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from [www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1194947358374](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

### *Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'*

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, Susan Michel informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and acts on any advice given. Contact numbers are located in the kitchen/office.

### *HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure*

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. We:

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

- Use protective rubber gloves for cleaning/sludging clothing after changing.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to collect.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

#### *Nits and head lice*

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice. They can return after treatment.

#### *Procedures for children with allergies*

- When children start at the pre-school we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
  - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
  - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
  - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. EpiPen).
  - Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
  - Review measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's registration file and a summary is displayed where practitioners can see it.
- A health care plan will also be completed.
- Generally, no nuts and kiwi fruit are used within the setting. Although this may include other food products if it could potentially put a child at risk.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut, nut products and Kiwi fruit are accidentally brought in for snacks or lunch boxes.

#### *Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities*

- If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider Royal Sun Alliance must be obtained to extend the insurance.
- At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare

Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Oral medication: Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
  - We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
  - We adhere to the correct storage and administration of the medication.
  - We must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.
  
- Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:

These include adrenaline injections (EpiPens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

  - We must have:
    - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
    - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing practitioners to administer medication; and
    - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
  - Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Early Years Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. The pre-school will not start the child until written confirmation that the insurance has been extended. Key person for special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.:
  
- Treatments, such as inhalers or EpiPen's are immediately accessible in an emergency.
  - Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
  - The key person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.

If we are unsure about any aspect, we will contact the Early Years Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585/ 2595 or email [insurance@eyalliance.org.uk](mailto:insurance@eyalliance.org.uk)

Policy reviewed and adopted on 23/10/24

Signed on behalf of Bagshot Pre-school **Susan Michel**

Role within the Pre-school Manager

