



8th June 2020

Dear Early Year Providers

We thought it would be helpful to clarify the action childcare settings should take if a child or member of staff are displaying coronavirus symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Below we have provided a summary but it is worth reading official government guidance for pre-school settings on dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, which is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

What to do if a child or staff member develops symptoms

Anyone with symptoms should inform the childcare setting as soon as is possible; or if within the setting they should be sent home. Symptoms include one or more of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

More detail is available online here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

The individual should be tested for COVID-19; this can be arranged online: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>

They should consider alerting the people with whom they had close contact with in the last 48 hours to let them know they have symptoms of COVID-19.

What to do following a positive test

If the individual tests negative, they can return to the setting. However, in the event of positive test result, the person must self-isolate at home for seven days and follow the guidance available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The individual will receive a request by text, email, or phone to log into the NHS Test and Trace service website and provide information about recent close contacts. Other individuals may also need to self-isolate for 14 days; in most cases this will include the rest of their class or group, however, PHE will support the setting to identify those close contacts who will need to be advised to self-isolate and any further testing required.

Cleaning and handwashing

Settings are encouraged to promote regular hand washing 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. Also ensure the practice of good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>

The spread of the virus can also be reduced by regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table-tops, play equipment and toys using standard products, including detergents and bleach; this is especially important following a confirmed case. There is more detailed guidance available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

If you are told that a child or staff member have tested positive for COVID-19, you, or a member of your staff, should contact:

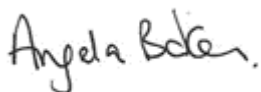
Public Health England, South East Health Protection Team:

In hours (Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm): 0344 225 3861 (choose option for Hampshire and Isle of Wight)
Out of hours (Monday - Friday between 5pm to 9pm and 8am to 9am): 0844 967 0082
Weekends and Bank holidays between 8am to 9pm: 0844 967 0082

Hampshire County Council Public Health Team – for notification purposes only:
hcc.healthprotection@hants.gov.uk or for the Isle of Wight publichealth@iow.gov.uk

Please note this is an evolving process and we would advise you to keep up to date with the guidance as published and updated regularly by the government. We will share more information with you when it becomes available.

Yours sincerely



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