



Sheffield Hallam University Nurseries

Sickness and Illness Policy

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuring we have safe systems of work this policy is a temporary document that supersedes any current policies of a similar nature. At **Sheffield Hallam University Nurseries** we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection and the transmission of the virus during these unprecedented times, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell.

This temporary policy follows current government advice - *Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings, Published 11 May 2020, updated 1st June* and is underpinned by our risk assessment.

There are important actions that children, parents and staff can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

- 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 - promote 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)*

Procedure

- Children must not attend nursery if they have a temperature of 37.8 degrees or above, or have a persistent cough or newly developed cough and heavy cold or flu-like symptoms or anosmia (lack of smell and taste). They should remain at home for 7 days and return to nursery when receiving a negative test result
- Children will have their temperature taken on arrival, any temperature above 37.8 will mean the child is taken home immediately
- A log will be developed to keep information about children's illness
- Children must not attend nursery if they have had paracetamol medicine such as Calpol within 4 hours of attending their nursery session other than when children are naturally teething
- Adults who enter the nursery building will have their temperature taken
- If children become unwell with a fever or cough and cold while in session, they will be transferred to the isolation room and be sent home and asked not to attend for 7 days, family members must remain isolated for 10 days. they must receive a negative test result before they return
 - ❖ Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.
 - ❖ If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible.



- ❖ The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- ❖ staff will wear full PPE, gloves, apron, face mask and visor

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

• *a new continuous cough*

• *a high temperature*

• *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in nursery and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask will be worn by the supervising adult as a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child is necessary, then gloves, an apron/gown and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then a visor should also be worn.
- In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.
- If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves; they should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
- All staff who are attending nursery will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Lateral flow tests are available for staff to self-test twice weekly
- Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
- Nursery will seek advice from Public Health Sheffield/England if other cases in the nursery are suspected

The Nursery does not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. However in these current circumstances we have to consider the nursery as a whole including transmission to staff and other children which would inevitably mean closure.

The decision of the Nursery Manager/deputy is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions take into account the needs of the child, the group and nursery.

Children who are infectious with other childhood illnesses

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be excluded for certain periods as directed by 'Guidance on infection control in schools and other settings¹'. If the nursery suspects that a child

¹ https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf



has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before the child can return

If a child becomes ill at nursery with a contagious illness, all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of this infection. If there is a serious outbreak of a contagious disease Domestic cleaners at the university will be contacted to undertake a deep clean and the nursery will close. The Duty Room at Health Protection Agency will also be contacted.

We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery

Procedure

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- Sick children will not be admitted to the Nursery
- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible
- While waiting for parents to arrive, the staff will make sure the child is comforted and reassured
- Any illness and action taken will be noted in the child's Health and Welfare Record
- Where a parent is asked to collect a child through illness this will be noted on the health and welfare form
- The nursery can supply emergency paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) AT COLLEGIATE SITE ONLY but parents must sign the Emergency Paracetamol form in advance (see medication policy).

We will take appropriate action which includes seeking medical advice in accordance with the South Yorkshire Health Protection Services.

If the child is in danger, the staff will seek further medical advice immediately.

Staff will report any worries about a child's health to the parents/guardians and management immediately. This will be recorded in the health and Welfare form

We ask that parents keep the Nursery informed if they become aware of any changes in their child's health.

Diarrhoea and Sickness

If a child or staff member has diarrhoea and sickness they will not be permitted to come to nursery. There is an exclusion period of 48 hours from the last episode of illness. This will be recorded on the Health and Welfare form. If more than one case is recorded a log will be taken for reporting to Public Health

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The nursery manager/staff member must:



- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. **Do not** attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

This policy will be superseded by a continuity of service policy and specific risk assessment if a pandemic or other serious outbreak of infection occurs.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
9/4/21	J. Rhodes	Monthly during the pandemic