



## 04 Health procedures

### 04.5 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea\* and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using a thermometer. Any temperature reaching 37.8°C or higher will result in you being contacted and asked to collect your child.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours. This is not only to ensure no adverse reactions take place whilst in our care but also to give the medicine a chance to work.
- After diarrhoea \* or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- If a child has 3 or more loose stools during a session they will need to be collected and will be treated as having diarrhoea and will be asked to stay home for 48 hours after the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies their line manager if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.



- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

\*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.

([www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis))

### **What to do if a child seems very unwell**

Children and babies can get illnesses that can make them very unwell quickly. It is important to seek medical help and to contact the child's parents immediately.

#### **Call 999 if a child:**

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a seizure or fit for the first time
- has unusually cold hands
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin
- has a weak, high-pitched cry that is not like their usual cry
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards
- is not responding like they normally do

### **Allergies**

- When your child starts at preschool you will be asked for full details of any known allergies. This is recorded on their registration form, which is kept within their personal file.
- Dependent on the condition we will also need your child's care plan from his/her GP or Paediatrician.
- If necessary, we will seek professional assistance to show us how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction



- No nut or nut products should be brought into preschool.

### **Nits and head lice**

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- If head lice are visible to staff or other children then parents are called to collect and treat their child before they can return to the setting.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

### **HIV/AIDS 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.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

### **Respiratory Illness (Including COVID-19)**

Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. Symptoms can be caused by several respiratory infections including the common cold, COVID-19 and RSV. For most children and young people, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids.

Very few children and young people with respiratory infections become seriously unwell. This is also true for children and young people with long-term conditions. Some children under 2, especially those born prematurely or with a heart condition, can be more seriously unwell from [RSV](#).



## **When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education**

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to preschool and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

## **Children and young people aged 18 years and under who have a positive test result**

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

For further information on coronavirus please visit (COVID-19) - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)) or [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)



## Living with Covid-19

Stockland & Yarcombe Preschool are following guidelines as set out by the government.

Any child who has tested positive for Covid-19 is required to stay home from Preschool for 3 full days. Children who have a temperature or appear unwell will need to be collected from Preschool and are asked to not return until their temperature has returned to normal and they are well enough to do so.

Any members of preschool staff who test positive for Covid-19 will be required to stay home for 5 days.

## Further guidance

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance 2009)

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)