

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

It is my policy to keep children safe while they are in my care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting and while I am off site.

I follow the requirements laid out in the Early years foundation stage statutory framework for childminders and in any Department for Education and UK Health Security Agency guidance or guidance on local outbreaks.

Procedure: (how I will put the statement into practice)

In order to protect others who use my service and my own family, I require parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/household. I will share updates about my own family's health with parents/carers.

I expect all parents/carers to take necessary steps and follow government guidance to prevent the spread of any infection. In addition, I will comply with this guidance to ensure the safety of my own family and those who access my childcare service. Failure to comply with government guidance may result in termination of the contract.

Sick children – Respiratory infection including COVID-19

If a child in my setting becomes unwell with symptoms of respiratory illness (including COVID-19) and/or develops a high temperature, they must be collected immediately and parents will be advised to follow [guidance for people with symptoms of respiratory infection](#). If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to an area that's a minimum of two metres from other children. If possible, and if I have available staff to supervise, they will be moved to a well-ventilated room with the door closed.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom, where possible, which will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

I will wear appropriate PPE when caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

Where a child is no longer unwell with respiratory infection and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to my setting. Where a child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should remain at home, avoiding contact with other people for three days from the day after their test was taken. They can return to the setting after three days as long as they are no longer unwell and no longer have a high temperature.

Staff – Respiratory infection including COVID-19

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

If a member of staff has helped someone who is unwell with symptoms of respiratory infection, including COVID-19, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms and/or a high temperature themselves and become too unwell to carry out their work. They will wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell, and the affected area will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant.

Should I or any family member develop symptoms of respiratory infection, I will follow [government guidance for people with symptoms](#). In line with this, if I test positive for COVID-19 I will stay home and avoid contact with others for five days from the day the test was taken. In this circumstance, you will not be charged for any period that I have to close my setting.

Other illnesses (including sickness and diarrhoea)

If a child in my setting becomes ill whilst in my care, or whom I believe has an infectious illness or disease I will:

- Keep the child away from the other children
- Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
- Ensure the child is excluded from my setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with UK Health Security Agency guidance here [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK](#)

If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification I will inform the parents/guardians of my concerns and act on advice given by the UK Health Security Agency here [Health protection in education and childcare settings](#). I will also inform Ofsted, or my Childminding Agency (if registered with an agency) of any action taken.

I make parents aware of my sickness exclusion policy and keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in my setting.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents, I expect to be paid for the child's place even if they are excluded from my setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

If I, or one of the members of my family, have a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform parents as soon as I am able. In this instance, if I am not able to offer my childminding service, I do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

I will inform the parents of the other children in my setting if a child I care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Hygiene

Hygiene procedures are important at all times. In my setting I take the following measures to help prevent germs spreading:

- Carry tissues with me at all times and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. I will bin the tissue, wash my hands, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel.
- Wash my hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Display posters that show good hygiene and hand washing practice
- Avoid touching my eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

I ensure all adults and children in my setting are aware of good hand-washing procedures and respiratory hygiene and support them to carry out these procedures in line with government guidance.

I ensure there is a supply of tissues and hand gel available for children to use when required, and I also help children to learn how to catch their sneezes and coughs.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations sudden onset of illness which involves bodily fluids such as vomit, diarrhoea or Covid 19],

I ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk. I ensure that litter trays and pet food dishes are kept away from children. All pets are regularly vaccinated and up to date with worming and flea treatment

I have read and understand the Illness and infectious diseases policy.

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	
Parent(s)' name	
Parent(s)' signature	
Date	

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Date policy was written	
This policy is due for review on the following date	

This policy supports the following Early years foundation stage statutory framework for childminders requirements:

Section 3 – Safeguarding and welfare requirements

- Health