

# Effective Infection and Protection and Control (EIPC) During Coronavirus/COVID Outbreak

At Radnor Park Kindergarten we seek to deliver safe practice by focusing on measures that will be put in place to help limit risk of the virus spreading within the setting

The EIPC has been revised alongside risk assessments, which lay out how we will ensure to mitigate and minimise any risks.

## **Hierarchy of measures**

The kindergarten will work through the hierarchy of measures set out in the government [guidance](#):

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Minimising contact
- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of the setting including the environment and resources.
- Ensuring that staff and children follow normal infection procedures in common with all communicable diseases.

## **Pregnant staff**

Pregnant women are in the clinically vulnerable category and are generally advised to follow the above advice, which applies to all staff in early years settings.

For more information, pregnant staff can also read [guidance and advice on coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and pregnancy](#) from the Royal College of Gynaecologists. All pregnant women should take particular care to practise frequent, thorough hand washing, and cleaning of frequently touched areas in their home and/or workspace.

The kindergarten's workplace risk assessment will consider any risks to female employees of childbearing age and, in particular, risks to new and expectant mothers (for example, from working conditions, or the use of physical, chemical or biological agents). Any risks identified will be included and managed as part of the general workplace risk assessment.

If the setting is notified that an employee is pregnant, breastfeeding or has given birth within the last 6 months, we will review and check the workplace risk assessment to see if any new risks have arisen. If risks are identified during the pregnancy, in the first 6 months after birth or while the employee is still breastfeeding, we will take appropriate, sensible action to reduce, remove or control them.

While it is a legal obligation for the kindergarten to regularly review general workplace risks, there is not necessarily a requirement to conduct a specific, separate risk assessment for new and expectant mothers. However, an assessment may help identify any additional action that needs to be taken to mitigate risks.

### **Testing for early years staff, children and families.**

**Coronavirus testing:** Staff and children in all early year's settings are no longer eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms. However, staff are required to take a test if they are showing any symptoms of Coronavirus and are required to isolate until they test negative or for a period of 7 days, whichever is the sooner. This is to ensure that staff do not pass on the virus to staff and children alike.

Whilst not a legal obligation for children to be tested if they show coronavirus symptoms, we would advise that children with symptoms are not brought into the nursery until they are well enough, to reduce transmission to others.

Where staff and children have been abroad, they shall follow the rules set by the Government in relation to testing and self-isolation for the countries that they have visited.

### **Lateral Flow Test (LFD test)**

If a staff member has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test they should notify the setting that they will not be attending setting on the basis of the LFD test result.

### **Changes to contact tracing**

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July 2021 is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing.

### **Self-isolating and taking a test**

1. If your child has symptoms, as with any communicable disease, children should stay absent from the nursery until they feel better and are no longer contagious.
2. Testing is not a requirement for children.

### **Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts**

1. Close contacts no longer need to be tested nor self-isolate
2. If the kindergarten has a positive case, the setting no longer needs to advise any outside agencies.

## **Minimising contact before entering the setting**

- We have minimised contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms do not attend the kindergarten, in line with all other communicable disease,
- A thermal imaging camera has been set up just inside the kindergarten main entrance. This will detect the temperature of an adult at the door; children's temperatures will no longer be taken unless they are showing signs of a high temperature when they arrive at the setting.
- Staff will be monitoring the children's temperatures if the child is displaying symptoms or appears unwell.
- Our expectation is for parents to inform us if medications have been used that may lower the child's temperature,
- Staff will be monitored if they display any signs of illness throughout the day.
- For parents and staff to wear a face mask if they feel it is appropriate but visitors that come into the setting will be asked to wear one as well as the member of staff that is escorting them.
- Children will continue to be dropped off at the 3 main entrances to the nursery and parents and carers are not to enter the building unless they are settling in their children or for pre-arranged pre-visits and events. At all times parents will be asked to take a LFD test within 24 hours prior to coming into the nursery.
- Any work that needs to be done by outside agencies will be done during hours of closing, where appropriate, and there is no immediate danger to the children, staff, visitors or environment
- Visitors such as outside agencies working with the setting, prospective parents and parents supporting their child to settle in, can enter the building and must follow specific safety measures. The measures are:
  - To wear a mask
  - Maintain a suitable distance,
  - Complete a Lateral flow test (COVID -19 Self-Test – Rapid Antigen test) which can be obtained from the kindergarten, within 24 hours of their visit
  - Complete a COVID form on arrival.
  - Sanitise hands on arrival.
- We can only store a limited number of buggies and no bikes, tricycles or scooters at the nursery and would ask that they are all left at home.
- We ask that only one designated person carries out the drop off and/or collection of their child to minimise the number of adults in the setting entrance. Please can parents take into consideration the increased waiting time due to the one in and out system.

## **Minimising contact inside the setting**

- We have introduced three separate entrances for the Baby Unit and Caterpillar section, The Toddler children and Butterfly section will use the main entrance.
- Ensure the children's sleep beds are kept as far apart as possible.

- We will be washing staff and children's hands regularly, washing them thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Noting that some children will need additional support to follow these measures

### **What parents can do:**

- Ensure that Baby Unit children go to the entrance at the front of the kindergarten and Butterflies and Toddlers access the entrance that leads up to the ramp. Caterpillars have their own entrance that leads to the lower ground floor.
- Take into consideration waiting time due to the one in and out system at the main entrance
- Children will have their own bag with 2 changes of clothes, sunhat, nappies, comforter in etc – they will remain at the kindergarten. When children arrive, their coat will be put into their peg and the kindergarten will inform you when these items need topping up.
- Wash children's comforters daily
- Provide up to date emergency contacts whenever it changes.
- Provide up to date medical, allergy and dietary needs of children.
- Provide information on any changes to parental responsibility.

### **Online safety**

We will continue to share information with parents about online safety and direct them to resources recommended by the government such as e-bug available on the kindergarten's website [www.radnorparkkindergarten.com](http://www.radnorparkkindergarten.com) .

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Vulnerable children continue to be expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so (for children with education health and care (EHC) plans this will be informed by a risk assessment approach).

Strategies and support will be put in place for any children with noticeable gaps in development progress.

### **Stay in Touch with Parents or Carers whose Child is at Home**

For those children not attending the setting for a period longer than a week, we will endeavour to stay in touch with the children and families by email and 'Parentzone' app by providing a 'Learning and activities' programme to:

- continue to support the learning of children who are not in attendance due to any illness and absences, by providing home learning packs.
- ensure parents and carers can be supported to provide a positive learning environment at home

We will work with the local authorities to monitor the welfare of:

- vulnerable children who are not attending the setting
- other children they might wish to keep in touch with, for safeguarding purposes

### **Safeguarding Children**

We will continue to follow our comprehensive safeguarding policy and procedures.

All kindergarten staff and volunteers have access to a designated lead practitioner and know on any given day who that person is and how to speak to them.

### **Visitors to the setting**

We will allow prospective parents to view the setting and new parents to support their child in the settling in process. In certain circumstances outside agencies who are working closely with the kindergarten will be able to enter the setting.

A record is kept of all visitors.

### **Managing prospective parents and new intakes of children:**

Starting nursery can be a challenging time not only for children but for parents. We are allowing parents to enter the building for viewings and settling in sessions and have adapted the settling in process to ensure we are following correct protocols and social distancing measures by putting in place simple steps to aid the transition process

Show rounds for prospective parents will take place on a Monday and Friday, and on unavoidable occasions outside of these times, who will be asked to follow the systems of control we currently have in place. Please refer to the section **Minimising contact**

- Children will have their settling in sessions in their new environment and parents can monitor their transition during this process in the section.
- We ask that only one parent attends with their child and the session lasts no longer than an hour when the parent is in attendance
- Virtual/telephone pre-start meetings will be held with parents of new starters and key person to discuss the child's needs, interests and routine.
- Information about safety arrangements, settling in documents, contracts and admission form will be sent online or by post.

**Note:** Any new families will be asked to sign a health declaration form to confirm the child or no one in the family has any symptoms of coronavirus.

## Transitions

Taking into account the Transition Matters Framework 2016 we will support children and their families to ensure a smooth transition into a new section and for new children starting with us.

- Assign each child a key person and buddy.
- Provide a photograph of the key person and buddy.
- Share information between original key person and new key person where appropriate.
- Utilise the iConnect / Parentzone system as an alternative method of communication between parent/carers.
- We will ask parents to post on the iConnect or by email updated information about the children's interests, routine, favourite songs, games and activities.
- Ask parents to send by email photos of the children's family, which we can displayed in the child's environment.
- Parents can view their child's section and meet their new key person via zoom and out of hours open evenings.

## Handwashing

Regular handwashing with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds, is the best way of staying safe. Handwashing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze, then bin the tissue in the dedicated tissue bin, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.

## Environment

- All of the nursery environment will be risk assessed.
- Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows)
- We will prop doors open, where safe to do so, bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding, to limit the use of door handles and aid ventilation
- We will regularly clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, table tops, play equipment, toys and electronic devices using Newline multi-surface cleaner.
- At the end of the day and close of business all the kindergarten rooms will be de-fogged with a sterile solution except Mondays, when it will be done in the mornings
- If a member of staff or child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, at the kindergarten, they will be sent home and advised to stay at home until they are no longer contagious and show no signs of illness.

## **What happens if someone becomes unwell at the setting?**

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature at the setting, they must be sent home and advised to stay at home until they show no further signs of illness and are no longer contagious.

## **What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?**

Where the child tests positive, they will be advised to stay at home until they are no longer contagious and show no further signs of illness.

Where a staff member tests positive they will be advised to stay at home until they are free from illness and are no longer contagious. Staff will be encouraged to stay at home until they test negative, to ensure the virus does not infect anyone else, or have been home for at least 7 days whichever is the shorter.

Radnor Park Kindergarten will provide lateral flow tests for the staff where needed.

If that person has not developed new symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive within 90 days of a previous positive test, they do not need to self-isolate again. Current advice is people only remain infectious for a period of 5-7 days from symptom onset, the test can pick up fragments of DNA for many weeks after this. However, if the person previously recovered, then developed new symptoms after 90 days and tested positive, this will be treated as a new infection.

## **Laundry**

We will wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items. Use laundry sanitising solution at every wash.

Do not shake dirty laundry, this minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with our usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

## **The Kindergarten's Policy and Procedure Pack - COVID-19 Addendum**

The kindergarten has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures to ensure high quality care and learning, compliance with EYFS (2020) and all relevant legal requirements. These are sent out to all new starters and are also available on the kindergarten's website [www.radnorparkkindergarten.com](http://www.radnorparkkindergarten.com)

**[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#) – was withdrawn on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**