



STAPLE  
PRE-SCHOOL **COVID-19**

Coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses, are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain first identified in December 2019.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**January 2022: A wide variety of symptoms have now been recorded against newer variants (Omicron) and so we rely on the use of lateral flow device tests to safeguard our community.**

**Government guidance (08/2021) states:**

Children and young people in England:

- are at a very low risk and rate of severe illness from current variants – the benefits of them being in an education setting continues to significantly outweigh the COVID-19 health risks
- will no longer be in bubbles or be required to self-isolate if they've been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- should stay at home and get a PCR test if they have any of the main COVID-19 symptoms

**Preventing the spread of infection**

There are general principles to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Washing your hands often (20 seconds) – with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if hand washing facilities are not available
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing it in the bin ('catch it, bin, it kill it')
- Good ventilation of occupied indoor spaces
- People who are unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education setting. **Please do not send your child to preschool if they required paracetamol/ibuprofen in the 12hrs before their session start time.**
- Children and staff should wash their hands
  - On arrival at preschool
  - After using the toilet

- Before food preparations
- Before snack and lunch
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wearing appropriate PPE if supporting a child or colleague who has suspected COVID-19

### **Cleaning routines**

As of Autumn Term 2021, Staple Preschool (SPS) are the sole, regular hall users of Staple Village Hall (SVH), and so SVH cleaning schedules will ensure the facilities are safe and clean for our children and staff, alongside setting staff cleaning routines. PHE has published guidance on COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home (see links at end of document).

SPS staff will adhere to the following:

All frequently used hard surfaces will be cleaned with antibacterial spray throughout the day, this includes all door handles, light switches tables and chairs.

Disposable cleaning cloths will be used.

Toys will be rotated each day and sterilised between use to prevent cross contamination between children who attend on different days. The toys available will be toys that can be cleaned effectively, and resources will be limited to enable rotation.

Toys that are difficult to clean, such as toys with fiddly parts, soft toys, dressing up clothes and the wooden blocks will be out of rotation for 72 hours after use.

Water and sensory play such as play dough will be disposed of daily. Sand will be reintroduced for autumn 2021, as it offers so many opportunities for imaginative play, space & measure, fine motor skills etc. Its safe use and storage of items for 72hrs will be carefully considered.

Rubber mats will be used as opposed to rugs as these can be cleaned after use.

### **Hand washing Routine**

To ensure the staff and children are washing their hands in line with the current guidelines the following will be put in place:

- On arrival in the setting all adults will wash their hands
- On arrival all children will wash their hands (supported by a member of staff where necessary)
- Member of staff to wash their hands before supporting a child wash theirs if needed
- During the day children and staff will wash their hands after using the toilet, changing nappies, before snack and lunch
- Staff will wash their hands before putting on any PPE
- Staff must wash their hands before preparing and serving snacks

### **PPE**

In line with recommendations from the DFE and PHE PPE will be worn as follows:

In the event of a child or member of staff showing signs of COVID-19 during the day the person supporting this person will need to wear a disposable apron, gloves, face mask and eye shield. (See how to isolate an adult or child in the setting)

Children who are in nappies will be changed in the normal way with staff wearing appropriate PPE to include aprons and gloves to protect themselves from contamination. Eye shields will be available for staff if they wish to use them.

The Government has stated that face masks are not required for Early Years Workers however these will be available for staff should they wish to use them to manage and determine their own level of risk depending on the circumstances.

### **Social Distancing and further measures to protect from infection**

The Government has stated that group 'bubbles' are no longer required in part 4 of the 'roadmap'. Children will have freedom of movement around the setting.

### **Managing Registration Times at Drop off and Pick up**

Parents are asked to maintain social distancing and remain outside when dropping off and collecting children. Staggered drop off/collection is no longer in place and normal hours will resume.

There is no longer a requirement to organise children into groups (bubbles).

### **Regulating movements within the setting**

- *There is no longer a requirement to regulate the movements of staff and children on role*
- No visitors allowed into the setting. All visits will be arranged to take place outside, with photographs of indoor provision available.

### **Other measures**

- A paediatric first aider will be in the setting at all times.
- A safeguarding Officer will be in the setting at all times.

## **Guidance on dealing with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19**

### **What to do if a child or adult becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19**

- Call the child's parent to collect their child immediately
- The staff member should leave the setting immediately and return home, avoiding public transport where possible
- Call NHS 111, or 999 in an emergency (if they are seriously ill, or injured and their life is at risk)
- Whilst you wait for advice from NHS 111 or an ambulance to arrive, the unwell person should be taken to the committee room where they can be isolated.
- Open a window if possible for ventilation.
- The unwell person should sit on a chair.
- Attending staff member should wear appropriate PPE and try and stay 2 metres away.
- The unwell person should avoid touching surfaces and objects and be advised to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or into the crook of their elbow.
- If they need to use the toilet whilst waiting for medical assistance or waiting for collection, they should use a separate toilet if possible.
- After the child or member of staff has left the room used for isolation it will need to be deep cleaned, including any objects/items touched.

### **Getting tested - Confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests**

Staff and children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19\*. While awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

***\*As of 11/1/2022: 'anyone in England who receives a positive lateral flow device test result should report their result on gov.uk and must self-isolate immediately, but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.***

***Anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation seven days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative lateral flow tests, 24 hours apart, on days six and seven.'***

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated.
- they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to self-isolate, and children who usually attend the setting, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend the setting as normal.

Children under the age of 5 years will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

The setting must be informed of the result as soon as possible to enable appropriate action to be put in place if required

### **What to do if a case of COVID-19 is suspected in the setting**

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in the setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.

### **What to do if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the setting**

The Preschool will need to notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases in the setting, whether a child or a staff member, and if this results in the setting having to close (as per paragraph 3. 51 of the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage). Reports should be made as soon as possible, and within 14 days.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education and childcare settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. The preschool may be

contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak.

**Asymptomatic testing** remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings. Early years staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme. PHE has advised there are limited public health benefits attached to testing early years children with rapid lateral flow coronavirus (COVID-19) tests. Young children may find the rapid lateral flow testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

### **What to do if children or staff return from travel anywhere else in the world within the last 14 days**

All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation\*. Parents and carers should bear in mind the impact on their child's learning and development which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

\*<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

### **Guidance on cleaning the preschool after a case of COVID – 19 (suspected or confirmed)**

Coronavirus symptoms are similar to a flu-like illness. Once symptomatic, all surfaces must be cleaned using disposable cloths and household detergents, according to current recommended workplace legislation and practice.

These include:

- All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets and door handles

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time in (such as corridors) but which are not visibly contaminated with bodily fluids do not need to be specially cleaned and disinfected. If a person becomes ill in a shared space, these should be cleaned as detailed above.

### **Disposing of waste in the preschool including tissues, if children or staff members become unwell with suspected COVID-19**

All waste that has been in contact with the individual, including used tissues and PPE, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It should be put in a safe place and marked for storage until the result is available. If the individual tests negative, this can be put in the normal waste.

Should the individual test positive, preschool will be instructed what to do with the waste.

### **Guidance to assist professionals**

As COVID-19 has only been recently identified. Guidance to support professionals is regularly being updated or published. Up-to-date advice can be found through the following links

Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Guidance for parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Guidance for employers and business

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the preschool | date of review |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 5/1/2022                   | Lauren Gupta-Miles<br>(Committee) | 5/9/2022       |