

This policy was adopted by the Committee of The Heathers Nursery on 27th November 2020. Review date: As situation changes & led by PHE advice.



**THE HEATHERS NURSERY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

POLICY 13: Coronavirus - COVID-19

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.4 Health and wellbeing	2.1 Respecting each other 2.2 Parents as partners	3.2 Supporting every child 3.4 The wider context	4.4 Personal, social and emotional development

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Policy statement

We recognise the emergence and spread of COVID-19 and the need to continue to provide care for healthy children and prevent cross infection of COVID-19 to the nursery community and the wider community.

Aim

In the interest of all who attend the setting, and the wider community, this policy lays out the procedures that nursery will follow while COVID-19 is present. Our policy 1.19 Managing Children with Allergies, who are Sick or Infectious states that children who are unwell should be kept at home and policy 1.19 forms the basis of this specific policy.

Symptoms

COVID-19 is a strain of coronavirus with an incubation period of between 2 and 14 days. The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has the COVID-19 infection:

- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups.

Preventing spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

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

- Washing hands often - with soap and water or use alcohol sanitiser (containing at least 60% alcohol)
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin - Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.
- People who feel unwell should stay at home and not attend work or any education or childcare setting.
- Children and staff should wash their hands or apply alcohol gel:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival to nursery
 - After using the toilet
 - After coming in from outside
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snack times
 - Before leaving nursery
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Check Public Health England (PHE) and the NHS UK website regularly for updates to advice.

Facemasks for children under 5 and for staff working within nursery are not recommended.

Procedures

Regular Routines as at 7th September 2020

- Any child who is unwell **MUST NOT** be brought to nursery.
- Any child who shows **NEW** and/or **RECENT** onset of:
a continuous cough and/or high temperature
MUST NOT be brought to nursery and should be kept at home 14 days from onset of symptoms.
- Nursery should be informed via email, text, WhatsApp or phone call as normal routines for absence reporting.
- If any parent or sibling of a nursery child has symptoms as above, the nursery child should not be brought to nursery until the 14-day isolation period has passed.
- The 14-day isolation period start and end date will be recorded in our absence log.
- Nursery reserves the right to refuse admittance to any child we feel is not well enough to attend the setting or may pose a risk of infection to others.
- Parents will adhere to social distancing at all times as they queue up at arrival and collection times at nursery.
- Children will be met at the gate by a member of staff who will escort them into nursery.
- For children using the school classroom, they will be brought into the mobile building, will wash their hands and will then be taken over to the classroom by another member of staff.
- Lunch boxes must all be plastic and able to be washed thoroughly every day. No fabric lunch bags will be allowed in nursery.
- Children's lunch boxes should only contain items children can open themselves. Items such as cheese strings etc should be opened when placed in the lunch box by the parent so that staff who will be eating their lunch with the children are kept safe and that food items your child eats are only touched by your child.
- Children will need a drink included in their lunch
- We will not be accepting water bottles for use in session unless by prior arrangement. Water is freely available to drink in nursery and milk or water is provided at snack time.
- We can accept donations of store cupboard staples for snack but are unable to accept fresh fruit or vegetables due to the quarantine period of items brought into nursery before they can be used. Alternatively, Monetary donations for snack, suggested £1.00 per week can be placed in the money tin each week or paid online per term £10.00 to cover milk and daily snack. (bank details - The Heathers Nursery, 60-15-31, 23723467)
- All children will require their own named outdoor clothing such as sun hats, coats, scarves, gloves, winter hats etc depending on the weather. Nursery will not be able to lend these items.
- No toys from home should be brought to nursery. This includes any comforter items such as dummies or blankets.

- Parents will not enter the nursery gate at any time unless by prior appointment.
- Once inside the nursery, children will be taken to wash their hands fully before they begin their nursery session.
- Children will have their temperature taken during their first 30 minutes at nursery.
- Daily hygiene routines will be followed as normal - hand washing after toileting, before eating, after playing outside.
- Daily cleaning routines of the setting will continue as normal.
- Weekly cleaning routines will continue as normal.
- Used tissues will be disposed of as normal.
- At the end of session, children will be brought to the gate by a member of staff.
- Parents will be asked to use hand gel before their child is handed over to them so that if any accident forms require signature, this can be done as safely as possible.

Visitors to Nursery

- Only essential visits for safeguarding, welfare and emergency repairs will be permitted by prior appointment.
- All visitors will be required to wear a face mask unless they are excused for medical reasons, with the exception of Speech & Language therapists on visits to assess and work with specific children.
- All visitors will have hand sanitiser applied prior to entry in the gate.
- All visitors will be required to wash their hands when they arrive at nursery and when they leave.
- If a visitor wants to wear gloves, they must wash their hands once they enter the setting and put on a new pair of their own gloves.

New children settling at nursery

- We will aim to settle children with their parents in the outside area with their key person.
- This will be reviewed on a child by child basis
- If children will benefit from more parental support after the above approach has been tried, parents of children settling will be allowed into nursery as long as they are wearing a face mask or covering.

Testing

- Staff and parents/carers **MUST** be ready and willing to:
 - Book a test if they or their children are displaying symptoms.
 - Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive or if asked to by NHS Test & Trace.
 - Self-isolate for 14 days if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19
- Everyone who has symptoms is eligible for a FREE test
- Book a test at: [NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119
- If the result is positive:
 - Continue to isolate for 10 days
 - Household isolates for 14 days
 - If anyone else in the household develops symptoms, they must book a test
- If the result is negative
 - You do not need to isolate as long as you feel well and everyone in your household who has symptoms also test negative.
- For a child to return after displaying COVID-19 symptoms we will require sight of the negative test result for the 14 day exclusion period to end. There will be no exceptions to this.

Suspected Case of COVID-19 (child or staff)

- Any child or adult who develops a cough and or high temperature while at nursery will be sent home immediately and enter a 10 day isolation period. All other members of their household will enter a 14 day isolation period.
- Any child who has developed symptoms will be isolated from other children and staff in nursery and will be cared for by a member of staff who will be in PPE (face shield, face mask, apron, gloves) until a parent collects them.
- Parents will be asked to collect their symptomatic child within 30 minutes of receiving a call.
- The member of staff should remove the PPE and wash their hands thoroughly and not re-enter the nursery session and will be sent home for the remainder of the day.
- The area of isolation will be cleaned thoroughly to reduce the risk of passing on the infection to other people

Suspected Case of COVID-19 (parent/carer)

- If you believe you have been in contact with a suspected case of COVID-19, please advise us as a precautionary measure and follow the government advice on self-isolation for you and your household.
- Once test results are returned, please update us on the situation.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 (child or staff)

- We will contact the local health protection team who will advise us of the next steps.
- This team will contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 attended nursery - as identified by NHS Test & Trace.
- We will notify Ofsted

This Policy is subject to change due to the nature of the emerging situation of COVID-19.

Policy changes will be agreed by our committee via email confirmation as the advice from Government, Public Health England, Department for Education and Norfolk County Council is amended, updated and released.