



COVID-19: Updated Guidance and Procedures

This policy sits alongside our COVID outbreak management plan, to help prevent the spread of infection to make it safe for the children, parents, staff and visitors to the Oaklea Montessori nursery settings.

We will continue to review and update as necessary or to comply with official regulations or guidance.

Parents, staff, children and visitors MUST NOT enter the nursery if they have COVID-19 or are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.

Children

- Only children who are symptom free or have completed their isolation period should attend the setting.
- Any child with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste should take a Lateral Flow Test if they are able to, or should not attend nursery for 3 days.
- Any child who tests positive for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for at least 3 days following the positive test and should only return when they are well enough.
- Children should not attend nursery if they have had Calpol, as this masks COVID symptoms.
- All children must wash their hands on arrival at the nursery and before they leave to go home.
- Children will be supported in age-appropriate ways to understand the steps they need to take to keep themselves safe including regular handwashing and sneezing into a tissue and throwing it away.
- Children will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently during the day, such as after blowing their nose, before and after eating, when coming in from the garden, before touching their faces.

Staff

- Staff who have COVID or have COVID symptoms should not attend the setting for at least 5 days and can return after day 5, if they feel well enough to and no longer have a high temperature.
- Any staff member with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste are advised to take a lateral flow test.
- Staff will be risk assessed if returning to work after a period of isolation or having had COVID-19.
- Staff will continue to wash their hands more frequently, such as on arrival at the nursery and before they go home, before preparing and serving food, after wiping children's noses, after supporting toileting or nappy changing, before eating and before leaving the nursery.
- Staff are no longer required to wear face coverings. Staff may wear face coverings if they wish.

- All staff members will receive appropriate instruction and training in infection control and the relevant operating procedure and risk assessments.
- All staff members are responsible for ensuring that children, parents/carers and staff members follow this policy in full.

Parents & carers /Visitors

- Parents will be greeted at the nursery entrance, when dropping and picking up times.
- Parents & Carers / visitors must sanitise their hands when entering the nursery.
- All surfaces touched, or objects handled by visitors must be sprayed with disinfectant and wiped down upon their departure.
- Visits will be kept to a minimum quantity and length of time, and will take place, as much as possible, when there are minimal numbers of children in the nursery.

Premises & Resources

- All frequently used surfaces (e.g. tables, counter tops, toilets, sinks) will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- All waste will continue to be disposed of in a safe and hygienic way.
- Bedding will continue to be washed between use by different children.
- Current Government guidance is that PPE should not be required in general practice in nurseries to protect against COVID-19 transmission. PPE, such as gloves, will continue to be worn as usual for nappy changing and the administration of first aid.
- PPE can be worn when supervising a child with symptoms of COVID if it is not possible for the staff member to remain distanced from that child.
- Windows /doors will be kept open when possible to ensure good ventilation.
- Children are not permitted to bring items from home into the setting, including toys, unless absolutely essential for their wellbeing.
- Any toys or other resources accessed by children will be cleaned regularly.
- In the case of a positive case/ outbreak - to manage cleaning of resources, some difficult to clean items may be removed from the rooms. Free access to some resources may be limited, so that staff can control when children use resources, and they need to be cleaned.
- The setting will ensure an adequate supply of essential stock, such as gloves and disinfectant materials to ensure infection control.

Responding to a Suspected Case

- If anyone becomes ill with a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of smell or taste in the nursery they must be sent home and advised to follow the current government guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.
- If a child is waiting to go home, they should be isolated in a separate room / garden with appropriate adult supervision. When it is not possible to isolate them, the child will be moved at least 2 meters away from others.
- Staff will call 999 if they become seriously ill or their life is at risk.
- The staff member responsible for the child during this time should if possible be someone who was already working with that child.
- The staff member caring for the child will wear appropriate PPE if it is not possible to remain distanced from that child.

- The member of staff who has cared for the unwell child does not need to go home unless they develop symptoms. The staff member should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.
- The area where the child was isolated should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by the same staff member.

General

- Nursery policies should be always respected and adhered to by staff and parents alike.