

COVID-19 POLICY and RISK ASSESSMENT V.11

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On 1st April 2022, all remaining domestic restrictions were removed in England as the Government advice changes to live with COVID. This was set out in the document [Government sets out next steps for living with COVID - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid-19)

This document sits alongside (but supersedes) Little Fishes Staffing, students and volunteers' policy, Health and Safety policy, Health Policy (previously managing children who are sick or infectious) and the associated risk assessments.

It is based on current government guidance; we are aware we can seek additional advice from UKHSA or Directors of public health. This advice is regularly checked, policy updated accordingly and shared with staff and parents.

Covid 19 will now be treated in the same way as respiratory virus and other common childhood illnesses. For most children these are not serious and the need to be in education outweighs the risk to health. Whilst COVID restrictions have been removed Little Fishes will continue to maintain the usual baseline measures to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus' or other infectious diseases.

This risk assessment is based on the guidance published in March 2022 which can be found in [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/health-protection-in-education-and-childcare-settings) and [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

Location / Situation	Hazard/Risk	Action Required	By Whom
Little Fishes preschool	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Baseline measures</u>• We will adopt the standard baseline measures of good infection control/reduction of spread. These are good hygiene, good cleaning regimes and good ventilation.• We advise children and staff not to attend the setting if they are unwell or have a	Manager and deputies.

		<p>temperature or tests positive for Covid 19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government recommends vaccination as the best method to prevent infection in those eligible for it. <p>Little Fishes has a contingency plan that can be implemented if members of staff are required to isolate, however there is a risk that the preschool could have to close if significant numbers of staff are affected.</p>	All staff
Display of COVID-19 symptoms	If a member of staff or child shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 outside LF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff members, parents and children should follow current isolation guidance is that adults who test positive should try to isolate for 5 days, children for 3 days. Staff are not required to asymptotically routinely test. Tests are no longer supplied for free to settings or for the general public. Children and adults that are unwell with any contagious illness or a temperature are advised to stay at home and reduce contact with people until their temperature has gone and they are feeling better. They can return to normal activities once they feel well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature. <p>Contacts do not need to be excluded, unless the HPT advises it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are reminded that children must not attend LF if unwell with any other illness e.g. flu or upset stomach, or if they have been given Calpol or ibuprofen for illness. LF have the right to refuse entry into the setting if we believe it necessary to protect other children and staff from illness. 	All staff and parents
Display of COVID-19 symptoms	If a member of staff or child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at LF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child/adult shows COVID-19 symptoms whilst at LF, they will be put in a safe isolation in the octagon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature to be checked by LF staff. Call parent (if child) or next of kin (if adult) and explain suspicions of exposure and ask for parents to come to the preschool to pick up child. Child/adult to be seated and kept separate from others in the preschool. Ideally a window should be opened for ventilation. Accompanying staff to wear appropriate PPE if a distance of 2m cannot be maintained. They should avoid touching others, surfaces and objects. If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they should use the ladies' toilet, which should then be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products, before being used by anyone else. In an emergency call 999 if seriously ill. Do not go to GP, pharmacy or 	Manager and deputies.

		<p>hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where they have been will need to be cleaned once they have left. ○ If a member of staff has helped someone who was taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. ○ Child/adult to undertake a PCR test for COVID-19, if the result is negative the child/adult may return to LF, if the result is positive the child/adult should isolate based on current guidelines and (in the case of a child) the parent is to inform NHS test and trace. <p>We must notify Hampshire Local Authority, via the online portal, of any confirmed case, whether it's a child or adult in the setting and also Ofsted if we have to close as a result.</p>	
Positive cases rising above the threshold	The outbreak may need additional measures to contain it	<p>Seeking public health advise in the event of an outbreak The UKHSA has outlined new guidance on what to do in outbreaks of particular illnesses and when to contact public health for further advise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will take action should the number of positive cases rise above the threshold (10% of children or staff within 10 days of a positive test) by ringing the DfE helpline. ● We will identify the group that has mixed closely, this is likely to be the whole class in our setting. ● If a child or staff member is admitted to hospital with any illness we will phone the DfE helpline /contacts details below ● We will follow any additional advice from the UKHSA or public health, this may include reviewing and reinforcing our baseline measures such as increased hand washing, the wearing of masks in communal spaces, increased LFT testing of staff, enhanced cleaning, removal of resources that are harder to sanitise, social distancing at drop off/collection, increased outdoor activities and increasing ventilation (where temperature is not compromised). ● Restricted attendance will only be used as a last resort. ● We will identify vulnerable children and key worker children and offer them prioritised places. ● Activities will be provided for children to maintain the quality of education and opportunities. ● Support would be provided by maintaining regular contact with all our families and 	

		<p>enhanced contact with any families where we have safeguarding concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LF has the right to refuse entry into the setting if we believe it necessary to protect other children and staff from COVID-19. • LF will keep records where necessary relating to vulnerable staff and children. 	
Infection control measures – personal hygiene	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good hand hygiene Children, staff and visitors must wash their hands for 20 seconds, with soap and water, more frequently than usual, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before leaving home • On arrival at Little Fishes • After using the toilet • After outside play and activities • Before/after food preparation • Before/after snack and lunch • After sneezing and coughing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol gel may be used but this is not as effective as soap and water and does not kill norovirus. • Encourage children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth. <p>Good coughing and sneezing hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults are advised to cover mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough and sneeze and then dispose in a bin. If no tissues available cough and sneeze into the crook of elbow. The “catch it, bin it, kill it” method should be used. • Hand sanitiser available around entrances and exits. • Have a supply of soap, sanitiser and tissues. • Some children may struggle to maintain good respiratory hygiene e.g. those who spit uncontrollably (e.g. due to a speech impediment) or who use saliva as a stimulant (e.g. thumb sucking). LF will support these children and staff working with them as necessary. 	All staff
Cleaning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good cleaning regime • Daily cleaning of frequent touchpoints, kitchen, toilets as outlined in H and S policy. 	All staff

		<p>Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are contaminated, put in mouths or sneezed on, using standard cleaning products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spillages and contaminated fluids should be cleaned wearing PPE. Wear gloves and dispose of immediately, along with cloth used. • Regular cleaning of work surfaces and touchpoints to be undertaken. • Resources and equipment to be cleaned thoroughly as necessary following appropriate guidance. <p>Outdoor equipment to be cleaned after use as necessary</p>	
Ventilation	The increased risk of transmission due to poor air circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good ventilation • Windows can be opened slightly while children are present as long as comfortable temperature is maintained. • Windows can be fully opened while children are not in room. 	
Emergency closure	Communication of emergency closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would communicate details of any closure via email and the parents WhatsApp group, (by 7.30am if possible), and ask parents to acknowledge receipt of notice. If necessary, we will follow up with phone calls where necessary. 	
Shared settings	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are permitted to attend more than one setting • Parents to advise individual situations re. shared settings. 	Manager
Vulnerable children, children of concern and SEND	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND protocols to return to pre-COVID processes and will be discussed with applicable parents as necessary. • If a vulnerable child or child of concern is required to self-isolate, LF will maintain regular contact with the family to provide support as necessary. 	Manager
Medically vulnerable staff and children	Higher risk of becoming seriously ill with Covid/ greater chance of taking longer to recover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise parents that sending in children when unwell risks transmitting illnesses to vulnerable staff or children. 	
New Starters	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New starter settling in process is to return to pre-COVID routines and will be discussed with new parents as necessary. • In the event of an outbreak, we may revert to essential visitors to wear a face 	Manager and deputies.

	staff.	covering in indoor spaces.	
Drop-off / Pick-up	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop off / pick up will continue to be at the door 	Manager and deputies.
Emergency Contacts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents have been asked for an extra emergency contact to allow for rapid collection if a child should become ill while at Little Fishes. 	Manager to contact all parents
Toileting	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no longer a restriction on the number of children permitted to use the toilets. Toilets continue to be cleaned twice per day (and additionally where necessary) 	All staff
Take-home resources	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication between LF and parents will utilise a mixture of digital and hard copy formats. <p>Toys may be brought in from home but please ensure your child's key person knows what they've brought in.</p>	All staff
Educational Visits	Risk of coronavirus infection spreading to children, families and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bespoke risk assessments to be undertaken for each educational visit to ensure that current public health advice is being considered within each establishment. 	Manager and deputies.
		<p>The DfE helpline remains open and is the first point of contact for early years settings, schools and further education settings for advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health management of confirmed cases of Covid-19 COVID-19 testing queries Other COVID-19 related queries DfE policy changes <p>We can call or email them on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpline telephone: 0800 046 8687 Email: dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk <p>Helpline opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm (plus Saturday-Sunday 10am-</p>	

		4pm for advice about cases or other COVID-19 related issues)	
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