



Sickness and Illness Policy

At Ribbons Preschool we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend preschool if they are unwell.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the preschool day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key worker, wherever possible
- We follow the guidance given to us by Infection Prevention and Control for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) Nurseries Child Minders and Playgroups and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the preschool
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to preschool until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We notify the CIW as soon as possible where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the preschool, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- We exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the preschool day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the preschool so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the preschool that their child has meningitis, the preschool manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area and CIW. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the preschool, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify the appropriate authorities including CIW if necessary.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The preschool manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together

- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

COVID-19

If anyone becomes unwell whilst at the Preschool with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we will follow the [Protective measures in childcare settings guidance](#) and contact their parent/carer immediately. The child will be sent home and advised to follow the [Self-isolation: stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus](#)

Whilst the child is awaiting collection they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child, and with appropriate adult supervision (ensuring safeguarding and PPE procedures are met.)

Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. Where it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least two metres away from other people.

They will be comforted and reassured whilst waiting for collection, as per our usual policy.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected, using standard cleaning products, before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs.)

In an emergency staff will call a manager and 999 if they are seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below.) They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left, will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. If there is an urgent public health action to take, the educational setting will be contacted by the local Public Health Wales [Health Protection Team](#) who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for **10** days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their nursery group do not need to be sent home and self-isolate for 14 days unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The other household members of that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms, they should then be tested and self-isolate until they receive their results.

In these cases all information will be recorded on an incident form or Covid-19 record form (see NDNA's [Sickness and Illness policy](#)). Care Inspectorate Wales and Public Health Wales will be notified of any confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19.

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Signed on behalf of the preschool: K.Watkins-Freeman

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