**Covid-19 Protective Measures Policy**

For Fizzy Fish to remain open to all families, there are a number of measures we need to take to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The following advice, specified by the government, has been taken into account when writing and updating this policy: 11th May 2020, 23rd June 2020, 14th July 2020, 7 September 2020, 16 October, 5 November, 14 December and the roadmap to ease restrictions on 12 April, 17 May and in response to the hold on the easing of restrictions from 21 June (delayed until 19 July). Plan B restrictions from December 21 and guidance changes in January 2022.

**Effective infection protection and control**

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions will be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

* minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
* cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
* ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
* cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
* minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or all shops. This may apply to schools or other education settings too. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

* children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
* if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Education, childcare and children’s social care settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible, and there is unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they may approach their nearest [local resilience forum](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-resilience-forums-contact-details#england).

**Lateral Flow Tests**

* Asymptomatic testing is available to EY staff. Settings are provided with lateral flow device test kits with which staff can self-swab. Staff are asked to take test kits home and carry out the test twice a week. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff should also share their result with the manager to help with contact tracing. However, testing is not mandatory and staff do not need to provide proof of a negative test result to work, although participation in testing is strongly encouraged.
* Staff with a positive test result, either an LFD or PCR will need to self-isolate in line as per guidelines. As of 11 January they do not need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm a positive LFD result. Staff with a negative test result can continue to attend school or nursery and use protective measures.
* The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

## Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and Clinically Vulnerable adults, children and young people

For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been [classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version) no longer need to shield.

## Class or group sizes

Early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. Schools and early years should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:

* avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
* frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
* regular cleaning of settings
* minimising contact and mixing

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.

On 12 January 2022 the following information was received from the DfE:

*"It remains a priority to continue providing face to face education and childcare, but we know that COVID-19 continues to put early years settings under significant pressure, particularly in relation to workforce absence.*

*Government considers COVID-19 to be an exceptional circumstance in which the staff-to-child ratios set out in the EYFS can temporarily be changed if necessary, for example to respond to COVID-related workforce absences. This relates to* [***paragraph 3.31 in the EYFS***](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=ab28e690b8&e=b50e60edba)*.*

*In some cases, providers may choose to respond to staff and child absences by temporarily mixing age groups of children who would otherwise be educated or cared for separately. Ratios should be guided by all relevant requirements and by the needs of individual children within the group. For the purposes of meeting EYFS ratio and qualification requirements, all staff educating or caring for a mixed age group of children can be considered ‘available to work directly with’ all the children who have been grouped together.*

*We will update guidance to reflect this soon. In all circumstances, settings remain responsible for maintaining the quality of care, safety and security of children."*

Children should attend just one pre-school setting wherever possible and parents should be encouraged to minimise as far as possible the number of education and childcare settings their child attends. Childminding settings should consider how they can work with parents to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, for example pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children.

Each setting’s circumstances will be slightly different. If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children’s early learning.

With this information in mind, we will impose the following:

We will carry out a full risk assessment and apply any changes to our current working practices as needed.

All the children will be split into groups and they will be assigned key workers who will deal with all their needs during their time in the setting.

Each setting will make up a bubble and these will be mixed if it means that we can remain open with lower staff numbers due to illness or isolating requirements.

Nursery bubble

There will be a maximum of 24 children mixing each day and a maximum of 30 children mixing across the week. These children will mix with 10 members of staff across the week including managers

Pre-school bubble

There will be a maximum of 20 each day and 30 across the week. These children will mix with 6 members of staff across the week including managers

Peter Gladwin bubble

There will be a maximum of 18 each day and 30 across the week. These children will mix with 6 members of staff across the week including managers.

Please note that in addition to the above Lou and Sian will attending all settings across the week to help where required. Karen continues to work from home.

**Children**

At breakfast and tea, the children will all eat together as long as numbers allow. Lunch and snacks may be split into two sittings if the numbers are at their maximum during these times. Tables and chairs will be cleaned after each sitting.

Staff will have lunch breaks away from the children.

Parents and staff will be encouraged to travel to the settings via car, bike or walking and avoid public transport if able. If public transport is used, they will be encouraged to wear face masks.

Only one parent should bring their child to the setting.

Parents will not be allowed into the settings and must hand over their child or children over at the main entrance of the setting.

Any other parents arriving at the same must socially distance themselves from other parents and remain at least 2 metres apart.

The child’s temperature will be taken on arrival and entrance will be refused if their temperature is above 37.8ºC. The child’s temperature will be recorded on the register if above 37.8 ºC.

All children must bring a supply of clothing that can be used if clothes become soiled. Carrier bags must also be supplied. If either are not brought in each day then unfortunately entrance to the setting will be refused.

Parents must apply sun cream to their child/ren before attending their session, if the weather requires. We will apply more sun cream later in the day if needed.

Children must not bring items from home into the setting unless absolutely essential for their well-being. Where this is the case, items should be clean and in a separate bag in their back pack. Parents will be asked to take unwanted items away.

Children and staff will be asked to wash their hands on their arrival. They will continue to wash hands regularly throughout the day, especially before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. Staff will also wash their hands if physical contact has been made with a child or their belongings.

Hand sanitiser will be made available, especially in rooms where a sink cannot be accessed. Disposal paper towels will continue to be used for drying hands.

Children will be encouraged not to touch their mouths, eyes or noses and if they do, they will be taken to wash their hands following the hand washing procedures.

Tissues will be used for coughing and sneezing. These will be disposed of in the allocated bin in each area. The bins will be lined with a plastic bag and the bags will be remove throughout the day and disposed of in the nappy dustbin.

We will regularly clean all soft furnishings, soft toys and dressing up clothes and these will be kept to a minimum.

Surfaces that children and staff are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters will be cleaned on a regular basis.

Where possible, doors and windows will be left open to aid ventilation.

All children’s and staff’s clothing should be washed after each day in a setting.

The number of children going into toilet areas will be limited.

Children will spend as much time outside as possible.

Outdoor public places may be accessed by small groups adhering to two metre distancing from other people, in line with guidelines and do not need to be limited to 6 people, provided we remain within the EYFS staff child ratios, and a risk assessment is carried out which demonstrates that staff & children can remain socially distant (2 metres) from other people and groups, wherever possible. Staff will ensure that hygiene is maintained throughout & thorough handwashing happens before and after the trip.

Outdoor equipment will be cleaned regularly.

**Visitors**

In instances where essential professionals such as social workers, speech and language therapists or counsellors, or other professionals are needed to support delivery of a child’s EHC plan, we will assess whether professionals need to attend in person or can do so virtually.

If they need to attend in person, they are informed in advance of the latest COVID-19 safety arrangements and guidelines to follow, relevant to our settings, and the number of attendances is kept to a minimum.

The professional should also have completed their own risk assessment that they can share with our setting in advance.

A record is kept of all visitors which follows the guidance on maintaining records of staff & visitors to support NHS Test & Trace (date & time of visit, name & contact details, who they interacted with).

Non-essential visitors will not be able to enter our settings.

**What happens if a member of staff tests positive for COVID-19**

If the LFD or PCR is positive, staff must immediately isolate. They may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days if they take an LFD test from 6 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was positive if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day (day 7). The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to the setting on day 8.

PHE also recommend that staff continue to take daily LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10 even if they have ended their isolation early following 2 negative LFD tests. If any of the test results are positive, the staff member should isolate and should wait 24 hours before taking the next LFD test.   If a staff member lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and are not symptomatic/unwell, are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, they are not required to self-isolate, but must take a LFD test every day for 7 days and can continue to attend the setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

**What happens if a child at Fizzy Fish tests positive for COVID-19**

Children who test positive on a LFD or a PCR must immediately isolate and may also end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was positive if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day (day 7). The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to the setting on day 8.  Please note that LFD testing is at parental or guardian discretion (and the government states that regular LFD testing is not suitable for under 5s) therefore if LFD tests are not carried out, children should isolate for the full 10 days.

If a child, under 5, is in contact with a confirmed case outside their household, they are not required to self-isolate and do not need to start daily testing. However, if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test (not a LFD) as soon as possible. They will not be able to attend the setting while waiting for the PCR result and if the test is positive, they must follow the general self-isolation guidance.

**Children and staff** **who develop symptoms whilst isolating**

If (as a close contact), a staff member or child develops symptoms while they are isolating, they should arrange to have a PCR test. If the test result is positive, they should follow the advice for people with COVID-19 to stay at home and must start a new self-isolation period.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19:

• A new continuous cough

• A temperature of 37.8 or above

• A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

There are other symptoms, which may include sinus pain, feeling or being sick, stomach pains and headaches to name a few and if you are in doubt about your child’s health, please seek medical advice and if required, they should be PCR tested.

This document is a working document and will be reviewed and updated as changes are received from Government.

Reference documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020](/Users/FizzyFish/Dropbox/Shared Folder/Policies and Procedures/Covid-19 Protective Measures Policy/https:/www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covid-19-key-statistics-brighton-hove/current-alert-level-and-guidance>

https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/request-help-yourself-or-someone-else

Review and update details

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | R | U | Details | Q | Latest version |
| 5/2/21 | **√** | **√** | Updated and reflects current Covid requirements. | **√** | Issue 8/Feb 21 |
| 22/4/21 | **√** | **√** | Updated and reflects current Covid requirements |  |  |
| 21/6/21 | **√** | **√** | Updated and reflects current Covid requirements |  |  |
| 13/1/22 |  |  |  |  |  |

R = policy reviewed, U = policy updated, Q = quiz issued to staff. Please tick the relevant boxes.

Note: A quiz should be issued for new or updated policies and at least once a year.