Dear Parents and Carers

There have been confirmed cases of coronavirus in the setting. The nursery have followed the national guidance and your child has been identified as a close contact.

We need to ask that your child now stay at home and self-isolate from their last attendance at the setting for 10 days. Therefore if they were last in the setting the xxxrd xxx they should self-isolate until the xth xxxx returning to usual activity the xxx

Sent separately will be a Q&A on self isolating. Here is national guidance on what to do whilst self isolating:

Public health would like to share some key messages and actions within the community to prevent community spread:

**Face Coverings:**

* Ensure that you wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children, maintaining distancing on the way in and way out of the setting. We have had reports across the County of lapses in social distancing and use of face coverings, we need to maintain social distancing and wear our face coverings over our nose and mouth.

**Testing: At Home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests.**

* All in the community are invited to get on board with the national programme for testing to help tackle community transmission without symptoms. We advise the household to undertake this twice weekly whilst your child is self isolating.

Please order home Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) which are plastic cartridge home test kits, they can be used twice a week (3-5 days apart) and reordered daily. These can be collected locally from:

* + PCR walk in centres from 1-8pm daily), you can find your nearest collection site here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>
  + If the walk in centres are not close to you, you can have LFD tests delivered to your home by royal mail, usually within 24hrs. These can be found from this website. https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
* All results from at-home LFD tests require registering online and any positive results require a confirmatory PCR test within 72 hrs following a positive LFD. Following a positive result, the household should self isolate. The person who tested positive should have a PCR test and only if it is negative can they and the household stop isolating immediately. ***If you are planning on using a walk-in test centre for your confirmatory PCR test – please note these now close for appointments at 1pm (last test 12.30pm). Please book your PCR test as soon as you have a positive LFD to ensure a same day PCR test.***

**Note: Those that have tested positive for Coronavirus by PCR are exempt from a further PCR or LFT/D test for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms.**

* This does not change the national guidance that, if you are unwell with a cough, high temperature or a loss or change in taste or smell, you and your household must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of first symptoms unless there is a negative PCR test result.

**If there is an outbreak**

* When the setting become aware of more than two cases in the same bubble during isolation, we may ask all those who have been self isolating to home-LFD test or test at a Community LFT Centre on the day after isolation, this would be day 11. This will ensure that children are not carrying the virus without symptoms on the day they are to return to the setting. We recommend you book your tests in advance. All LFD tests are better taken first thing in the morning (as early as possible – but not the night before).

**Be aware of COVID in your home.**

* Please note, that while COVID-19 usually presents with a new or worsening cough, high temperature and loss or change in taste or smell. COVID-19 can present as cold symptoms such as; sore throat, severe fatigue/ feeling unwell for no clear reason, poorly tummy, severe headache and muscle aches. Looking out for these lesser symptoms is especially important for those with a child/ren self isolating, if your child or even members of your household become unwell in the isolation period, although it may be a seasonal cold, please consider this could be COVID-19. Your child can PCR test whilst they are isolating, those self-isolating should not attend community Lateral Flow Test (LFT) centres. We would also prefer PCR than home test kits as PCR is more accurate when there are some signs of illness. Anyone wishing to book the PCR test can book online or with 119 by stating you do not have top three symptoms online but “Public Health has requested you book a test”, you **are** permitted to have a test with lesser symptoms, the household legally do not need to isolate. Those choosing to LFD tests should repeat the test on following days to increase accuracy of the test. Your household do not need to isolate whilst this is undertaken (unless anyone has a cough, temperature, loss or change in taste or sense of smell).
* Just because someone in your household has COVID-19 does not mean that this needs to pass to other members of the household. It may be difficult for some people to separate themselves from others and not all these measures will be possible if you are living with children or have caring responsibilities but follow this guidance to the best of your ability. Wherever possible, avoid using shared spaces such as kitchens and other living areas while others are present and take your meals back to your room to eat. Wear a face covering when spending time in shared areas inside your home. Increase cleaning of touch points, not sharing towels, using hand sanitiser, ensuring that handles of cups, trays, and cutlery are cleaned appropriately between uses.

We understand that this new information may be challenging to put in place, but we believe it is necessary to ensure that we can maintain education provision for your child(ren). We want to keep you, your families, your setting, as well as your local community safe.

Kindest Regards

Liann Brookes-Smith

Public health Warwickshire County Council