

 **COVID-19 Guidance Information for Early Years and Childcare Providers including Childminders**

**8th July 2021**

Firstly, a huge ‘**thank you’**. You have kept your settings open during these challenging times and enabled children to have access to high quality play and learning opportunities. As the national restrictions are lifted some of you will be closing for the summer break whilst others will remain open as normal; some of you will be offering holiday clubs and activities for children throughout the holiday period.

It is important that providers continue following the **current guidance** until Step 4 comes into effect on 19th July 2021. This includes continuing to follow the **system of controls** set out within the guidance.

**Actions for early years and childcare providers (applies until Step 4)**

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic (applies until Step 4)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic)

This guidance applies to: local authorities and all early years providers in England.

This includes early years provision in:

* maintained schools
* non-maintained schools
* independent schools
* all providers on the Ofsted early years register
* all providers registered with an early years childminder agency

For **reception year groups**, schools should, in the most part, refer to [actions for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak) although some of the information in this guidance is relevant to reception.

**Holiday clubs and other out-of-school providers** should also continue to follow the additional guidance in:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-holiday-and-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)

**From 19th July 2021** providers should start using the updated guidance in:

**Actions for early years and childcare providers (applies from Step 4)**

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic (applies from Step 4)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999798/Actions_for_early_years_and_childcare_providers_during_the_COVID-19_pandemic.pdf)

**Actions for out-of-school settings (applies from Step 4)**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999758/OOSS_Provider_Guidance_PDF_Step_4.pdf>

**Covid-19 risk assessments** will need to be reviewed in line with the updated guidance.

**Advice and support will continue to be available throughout July and August via:** **earlyyearsadvisors@warwickshire.gov.uk**

**dphadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk**

**Reminders on cleaning all Early Years and Childcare settings.**

Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Public Health recommend that providers continue to maintain high levels of hygiene and cleaning processes when **Step 4** comes into effect.

**Areas to Prioritise for Disinfection**

**High-touch Surfaces**

• Door and window handles • Touch screen devices

• Furniture/soft furnishings • Shared Telephones

• Sports equipment • Remote controls

• Toys and books • Light switches

• Outdoor equipment • Stair banisters

• Intercom buttons • Countertops

• Computer keyboards • Bathroom surfaces

• Printers, photocopiers, scanners etc • Toilets and taps

**Note:** Whilst there is a significant reduction in virus survival on surfaces after 48 hours, viruses may survive on some surfaces up to 72 hours. We recommend a two-stage physical clean - i.e. use of detergent followed by disinfectant, or a good clean using a combined product. Fogging can be used for cleaning but must be in addition to physical clean.

**Cleaning Products**

Utilise one of the following methods:

* A combined detergent/disinfectant solution giving 1000 ppm (0.1%) of available chlorine.
* A separate detergent followed by a disinfectant solution giving 1000 ppm (0.1%) available chlorine e.g.: Milton disinfectant/tablets.
* An alternative sanitiser effective against enveloped viruses and tested to BS EN 14476.

**See Picture:**



**Ventilation**

Ensure adequate ventilation and increase airflow where possible to all occupied spaces on visits. To help with this, consider opening windows and doors – where it is safe to do so.

Please remember you know your setting and you know your community. The advice given is to enable you to make informed choices. There have been further variant outbreaks and to keep these under control, you may feel a more cautious and measured approach is appropriate. Please ensure you communicate to parents and carers and encourage them to follow whatever measures your school puts in place.

**This guidance is subject to change in line with government guidance**