

**Remaining safe in EY setting**

Dear parent,

Your child/ren will be starting back at the setting this week and we are looking forward to welcoming them back. While coming back to the setting is a really important step that we need to take for their education, including their mental and physical wellbeing. I appreciate the new year will raise some concerns among you as to what will happen should there be a positive case at the setting.

Please remember and reassure your child that, for most people, coronavirus should be a mild illness. But we all need to remain vigilant by watching out for symptoms of coronavirus.

I hope the below information will help you to understand the process and to see how closely we are all working together to keep the risk related, to a minimum.

We have a four step process to tackling Coronavirus. These are:

1. Avoiding those with symptoms and keeping risk of transmission to a minimum.

2. Getting tested

3. Identifying and isolating contacts of positive cases.

4. Keeping risk of transmission to a minimum;

Firstly, avoiding those with symptoms. We need to prevent Coronavirus coming to the setting. We need to keep to the national guidance to prevent our children passing on the virus and catching the virus. Like every autumn/Winter there are many illnesses which are going to be circulating this term, but it is more important this year that if your child is unwell to keep them home until they have been tested. Likewise, if anyone in the household is unwell, if you as a parent you start to feel unwell, do not send your child into setting until you have been tested.

We need to keep the risk of transmission to a minimum, you child will be in a bubble with their peers, which will prevent spread to other bubbles in the setting.

Secondly, testing. If your child or anyone in the household is showing coronavirus symptoms get them tested immediately. If you’re not sure it could be coronavirus. Get a test. If in doubt, test. Anyone with coronavirus symptoms should test negative before your child returns to the setting. If your child is positive inform the setting immediately.

Finally, If your child has symptoms we need the test result, positive or negative to enable us assure our community that we are doing all we can to prevent the opportunity for spread of Coronavirus in the setting. As soon as we are informed someone has tested positive we will be swiftly isolating close contacts. If your child needs to self-isolate as a close contact they should isolate for 14days – the household do not need to isolate unless your child themselves develops symptoms.

So, what happens if there's a case or an outbreak at your child’s setting?

* As soon as we are informed of a person positive for Coronavirus in setting we act immediately. We identify all close contacts of that person and inform them not to come to the setting/ send them home to self isolate for 14days. This prevents the virus from spreading in the setting.
* When we get two individuals who are positive in a setting (within 14 days) we class the situation as an outbreak. In all cases so far in the County, this second case has occurred in a close contact of the initial person who was already self-isolating when they developed symptoms.
* The setting works with PHE and the Public Health team at Warwickshire County Council for the best advice on next steps.

Settings are being advised on number of measures, these are:

* Ensuring that social distancing is used at every opportunity
* Reminding pupils around good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene “catch it, bin it, kill it”.
* Keeping children in bubbles or groups, we minimise the close contacts children can have.

We have some children who have underlying illnesses who are very worried about coming to the setting. If families follow the above actions together and we follow our processes in the setting, we can make the setting as safe as possible.

I hope that that addresses some of your questions. Please talk to us at setting if you have any further concerns and I hope that your child enjoys returning or starting with us.

Kind Regards

Head teacher