



Situated in the grounds of:-

Rushcombe First School
Hanham Road
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne
Dorset, BH21 3PX

Tel: 01202 690800 in school hours

Coronavirus Outbreak Management Plan.

“Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic” July 2021

Stepping measures up and down.

You should have outbreak management plans outlining how you would operate if there were an outbreak in your setting or local area. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children, any measures in settings should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission. The government will review its approach for enhanced response in local areas before Step 4.

If you have several confirmed cases within 14 days, you may have an outbreak.

You should call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan. You can reach them by calling the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and PHE health protection teams (HPTs) can recommend measures described in the contingency framework in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings – as part of their outbreak management responsibilities.

As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government’s response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone’s day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children’s education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September. Our priority is to try to deliver face-to-face, high

quality education and childcare to all children. The evidence is clear that being out of education and childcare causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

In order for us to respond appropriately should an outbreak occur locally or within the nursery, our [Outbreak Management Plan](#) should be followed.

In the event of an outbreak (several confirmed cases within a period of 14 days), the Principal and nursery owners will liaise with Public Health Dorset to report cases and obtain advice on next steps.

We continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the nursery Public Health might advise us to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Any confirmed positive cases will be reported to Ofsted by the nursery owners.

Dorset Council would be advised by the owners.

In the event of an outbreak, we will continue to:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Workforce

Protection of the workforce remains highly important to help reduce the risk of outbreaks within the nursery community. Currently all staff are double vaccinated. The nursery will support any new staff member joining us who still requires vaccination, with time off to attend appointments.

Should booster vaccinations be required all staff will be encouraged and supported to receive booster doses. Information about booster vaccines will be offered to staff once available.

Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and children

Shielding is currently paused. In the event of a major outbreak that poses a significant risk to individuals on the shielded patient list, the government can agree to reintroduce shielding. Staff or children who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable may need to stay at home, but only if advised by the government.

EYFS Disapplications

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework sets the standards that childcare settings must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

In the event of an outbreak we can use specific temporary EYFS disapplications if COVID-19 national or local restrictions in England prevent us from delivering the EYFS as normal. Details can be found in the guidance on EYFS: coronavirus disapplications. **The disapplications end on 31 August 2021.**

Asymptomatic Testing

Over the summer, staff should continue to test regularly during the weeks that the nursery is open.

Early years staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the government.

Self-isolation

From 16 August 2021, children will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so, particularly to avoid the risk of outbreaks.

Confirmatory PCR Tests

Staff and children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. They will also need to get a PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive rapid lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the rapid lateral flow test and they can return to nursery, **as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.**

Admitting children back to the setting

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a child with symptoms should not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others.

If a parent or carer insists on their child attending nursery when they are experiencing symptoms, we will only take the decision to refuse the child if it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision would be considered in light of all the circumstances and current Public Health advice.

Attendance restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a last resort as directed by Public Health. We recognise the importance of continuity of care and education in this young age group.

If attendance restrictions are needed, vulnerable children and children of critical workers would be allowed to attend.

Visitor Restrictions

Some nursery visitor restrictions are currently paused. Particular consideration in the event of an outbreak should be given to re-introduction of restrictions on:

- external teaching staff eg Blast Sport
- performances in settings
- whole nursery events eg Christmas Party

Face Coverings

There has been no previous guidance for staff to wear masks in nursery except under particular circumstances eg when caring for a child with Covid-19 symptoms.

It has been discretionary for staff to wear face coverings if this helps them to feel more confident in their roles.

There would be no change to this guidance in the event of an outbreak.

Face coverings for parents dropping and collecting their child may need to be re-introduced in the event of an outbreak. Face coverings are still required to be worn by parents entering the nursery building.

Temperature checking

Temperature checking of children and staff remains in place for early detection of Covid-19 or other acute respiratory infections affecting children, that currently require quarantine at home.

Dropping off and collection times

Limiting the numbers of adults allowed to accompany their child to nursery for dropping off and collecting is currently paused. It may be necessary for us to ask parents to limit it to only one adult once more in the event of an outbreak.

Personal items in nursery

Children's personal items are still not permitted in nursery.

July 19th 2021.