

6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, appropriate action will be taken.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital thermometer, kept in the first aid box. We also have an ear thermometer.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance should be called and the child should be taken to hospital and the parent informed.
- The setting can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, we advise parents to keep them at home for a minimum of 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After vomiting and/or diarrhoea, parents must keep children at home for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea.
- The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/guidance-infection-control-schools-and-other-childcare-settings-0> and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

- *HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.*

- *Single-use vinyl gloves and aprons are provided to be worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.*
- *Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.*
- *Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.*
- *Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and a spill kit.*
- *Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.*

Nits and head lice

- *Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.*
- *On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.*

Coronavirus (COVID 19)

What is Coronavirus (COVID 19)?

COVID 19 is a strain on Coronavirus. It is a severe respiratory syndrome similar to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which is also a coronavirus. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) in adults can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness as symptoms can be similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as a cold or flu. Coronavirus is believed to spread similarly to other viruses in cough droplets.

For specific procedures refer to separate 6 7 Covid 19 Policy.

Allergies

Procedures for children with allergies

- *When parents start their children at the setting they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.*
- *If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment form is completed to detail the following:*
 - *The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).*
 - *The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.*
 - *What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).*
 - *Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.*
 - *Review.*
- *This form is kept in the child's personal file, the risk assessment file and a summary of the allergy and actions that need to be taken are displayed where staff can see it on an allergy board.*
- *Parents train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.*
- *Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.*
- *Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to an end of year party.*

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- *The insurance will automatically include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from your insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.*

Oral medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to your insurance provider.

- *Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.*
- *The setting must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.*
- *All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.*
- *The setting must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.*

Life saving medication

Adrenaline injections eg Epipens or JEXT pens for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc).

- *The provider must have:*
 - *a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;*
 - *written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication;*
 - *training in the administration of such medication is given by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse or is covered by paediatric first aid training.*
- *Should a particular allergy be assessed to be of high risk we will refer the risk to our insurers to obtain additional insurance if required by underwriters. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be obtained from them.*

Key person for special needs children - children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

- Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- The key person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.
- Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to our insurers if required.

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