

6.7 COVID-19

The prevalence of Covid in society has decreased massively since it first arrived in the UK in 2020. There has been an excellent uptake of vaccinations and so Covid does not pose as much risk as it did. However, we do realise that there is a chance that this could change.

In the event of an outbreak i.e. when the nursery infection cases of children or staff members reach 10% in the nursery setting over a 14 day period this may be referred to as a Covid outbreak. At this point we would refer to our Covid Outbreak Management Plan.

Prevention:

- On arrival of the setting, there is had sanitiser available for the children, parents and visitors to use. The child cannot return until they have completed the current isolation guidelines.
- Encourage children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.
- Promote 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Albany Montessori School has, in line with government guidance, implemented a 'System of Controls' to ensure staff, children and parents are kept as safe as possible during these times.

'System of controls'

This is the set of actions early years settings must take. They are outlined in more detail below.

- 1) *minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend settings*
 - Any child, member of staff who have tested positive for Covid must not attend the setting until symptoms have subsided and/or they test negative for Covid.
 - Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend the setting.
 - Children and young people who are unwell AND have a high temperature should stay away from the setting for at least 3 days and until the temperature has subsided.

2) *clean hands thoroughly more often than usual*

- Provide children and staff with hand sanitiser on arrival.
- Ensure children wash hands regularly, throughout the day, as well as before eating, after coughing or sneezing.
- As usual staff and children MUST wash hands before prep or eating,
- If a member of staff has helped someone who displayed symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

3) *ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*

- Promote 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach ensuring a good supply of tissues available throughout the setting and when out in the park.
- Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

4) *introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach*

- We have introduced an enhanced cleaning regime and clean regularly during the day.

5) *minimise contact between groups where possible*

- *Registered early years providers are no longer required to keep children in these small groups within settings. The Department for Education says this is because "the overall risk to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low" and "early years settings are typically much smaller than schools"*