

6.7 COVID-19

Prevention:

- Parents to drop off and collect children outside of the setting. Parents will queue on a first come, first served basis whilst observing social distancing of 2m apart.
- Only children who are symptom free or have completed the required isolation period attend the setting.
- On arrival of the setting, temperatures will be taken and recorded on the day sheet – this is not a requirement though. It is also reasonable to ask if parents, children or any member of the household have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of or change in sense of taste or smell). If the answer is yes, they should not be allowed to leave their child at the setting. The child cannot return until they have completed the current isolation guidelines.
- No toys, teddys or blankets (or similar) to be brought in from home unless they are specific for that child's wellbeing for example a comforter.
- Children and staff to enter the setting and wash hands thoroughly on arrival at the setting and before eating. This should be done for 20 seconds.
- Encourage children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.
- All children coming to the setting should avoid all non-essential public transport travel, and outside of setting hours, follow national guidelines for social interaction.
- Promote 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach ensuring a good supply of tissues available throughout the setting and when out in the park.

Social Distancing

- *It is recognised that it is very difficult to expect preschool children to remain 2m apart.*
- *Parents socially distance themselves from each other and staff at all times.*
- *Parents and staff will wear a mask at drop-off and pick-up times unless exempt from doing so.*

- *The staff will be part of a bubble. They should at all times attempt to social distance from each other. Staff will also social distance from parents. If a member of staff is having to be in close proximity of a parent settling a child in then they should wear a mask.*

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 or other adults are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive in the last 10 days must not attend the setting.
 - Anyone who lives with someone who is displaying symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 must not attend the setting unless they have completed the necessary isolation period.
 - Anyone who lives with someone (including children who usually attend the setting) must not attend until the household member who has tested positive has completed their isolation period and providing no other household members have tested positive, in which case the period of time the child must stay away from the setting will be extended in line with the newly infected person's isolation period.
 - Anyone who has tested positive without symptoms and then subsequently develops symptoms, they should restart the period of isolation, currently 10 days, from when the symptoms started.
 - Anyone who has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace must not attend the setting until they have completed the self-isolation period. If they develop symptoms within the self-isolation period they must restart the period of isolation and not attend the setting until all symptoms have disappeared.
 - A child awaiting collection should be moved, if possible and appropriate, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. If it is not possible to isolate them move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. A window should be opened for ventilation.

- PPE should be worn by staff member supervising the symptomatic child – Disposable gloves, mask, apron, and face shield if required.

2) *clean hands thoroughly more often than usual*

- Ensure children and staff wash their hands or use 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,
- Staff and children MUST wash hands after 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.
- Wearing a face covering or face mask in nurseries and preschools is not currently recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in shops. Childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.
- Ensure masks are worn at drop-off and pick-up unless exempt.

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.
- Equipment is cleaned daily if required using anti-bacterial cleaner.

5) *minimise contact between groups where possible*

- *Due to the open-plan layout of Albany Montessori School we are a whole school bubble. 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”

- *Staff observe social distancing as much as is practically possible.*
- *Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently.*
- *Parents to drop off and collect children outside of the setting. Parents will queue on a first come, first served basis whilst observing social distancing of 2m apart.*
- *We ask parents to provide lunches in plastic containers to ensure easy cleaning. All lunch containers will be cleaned upon the child’s arrival.*
- *Should a child move from another setting there should be a period of 10 days before the child commences at Albany Montessori.*

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

- *The government guidance states that: “Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended”.*
- *Staff and parents must wear masks at drop off and pick up unless exempt from doing so.*
- *PPE should be worn by staff member supervising the symptomatic child – Disposable gloves, mask, apron, and face shield if required.*
- *Appropriate PPE is to be worn when nappy changing.*
- *Appropriate PPE is to be worn when cleaning up bodily messes such as vomiting.*

Response to any infection:

7) engage with the NHS Track and Trace process

- *Should a member or staff of child begin to display a continuous cough, a high temperature (37.8°C), loss of or change in sense of smell/taste, they should be sent home to isolate and book a test as per the guidelines.*
- *We will contact all relevant professional bodies and follow advice.*

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community

- *Should someone who attends or works at the setting test positive for COVID 19 we will contact the local health protection team and other necessary professional bodies and follow advice.*

- *The local health protection team will provide advice on who must isolate. We will keep a record of children's and staff's attendance on each particular day.*
- Household members of those who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 10-day isolation period, they should follow [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#). They should get a test, and:
 - if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days
 - if the test result is positive, they should inform us immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 10-day isolation period). Other members of their household does not need to self-isolate providing they are either:
 - you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine
 - you're under 18 years 6 months old
 - you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you're strongly advised to:

- do daily rapid lateral flow tests (1 a day for 7 days), if you're fully vaccinated, to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 - [find out more about daily testing on GOV.UK](#)
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

9) *contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice*

- Should the setting have two or more confirmed cases within 10 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where COVID 19 is suspected, we will contact our local health protection team who will advise if additional action is required.

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