



## Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At The Patch Day Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending our setting. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.

In light of coronavirus the government guidance will supersede any current policy or procedure we have in place. The procedure for a child who displays symptoms of coronavirus will sit alongside this policy as we feel it is important to remember that childhood illnesses etc still exist so this policy remains the same but additional information in relation to coronavirus will sit alongside it.

### Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (Health Protection In Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not allergic to their antibiotics and aren't subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable

- We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. We DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in our own vehicles.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- We redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate and appropriate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping children together if in the best interests of all the children.
- Arrangements would be put in place to enable the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter (if they have one)
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

### **Coronavirus Procedure**

Anyone who begins to display coronavirus symptoms while in the setting should be sent home immediately and follow government guidelines on [what to do if you or someone in your household develops symptoms](#). If a child is waiting to be collected, they should be separated from their group and isolated with one member of staff -We have set up an isolation room through the link door to school

A face visor should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from a child who is symptomatic and awaiting collection and if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn. If a risk assessment determines there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing or spitting, then eye protection should also be worn. Settings should ensure they are prepared to respond in line with the [guidance on protective measures in education and childcare settings](#) and [guidance on using PPE in education, childcare and children's social care settings](#).

Once the child or member of staff has left the setting, we will follow [Cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#) to ensure areas they have been in are disinfected and any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
July 2020	E Pate	July 2021