

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you that we are seeing an increase in the number of individuals in our setting who are testing positive for COVID-19.

Despite national COVID-19 guidance changing on 24 February, under Health and Safety legislation, I am still responsible for protecting the health and wellbeing of those who work in, attend and visit our setting. Therefore, I would appreciate it if parents and carers could support us by following the advice below:

- We will be keeping rooms well ventilated wherever possible, so they may be cooler than normal. Please ensure your child brings warm items of clothing with them.
- Please encourage your child to wash their hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and use tissues to manage cold-like symptoms.
- Be vigilant in looking out for the main symptoms of COVID-19 in your child, however mild (a high temperature of 37.8°C or above, a new continuous cough and / or change to sense of taste and smell). If your child develops one of these symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for them to get a PCR test, whether or not they have already had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

You can book a PCR test online. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 119. The quickest way to get a test is by booking to attend a Local Testing Site, however you can also arrange for a test kit to be sent to your home address. Free PCR testing continues to be available until the end of March 2022.

Please be aware that education and childcare settings can refuse entry to a child who has COVID-19 symptoms if a parent or carer refuses to get them a PCR test.

- Whilst the legal requirement to isolate following a positive COVID-19 test has now ended, the Government is still advising people to stay at home when they test positive. In order to keep people in our setting safe, we do ask parents and carers to follow this advice when their child tests positive for COVID-19.

In line with the Government advice, 5 days after your child's symptoms started (or 5 days after they tested positive if they did not have symptoms) they can start to LFD test. Once they have had 2 negative LFD test results 24 hours apart, they can return to the setting (as long as they do not have a high temperature).

So, for example, if your child has a negative LFD test on the morning of day 5 and then again in the morning of day 6, they can return to the setting on day 6.

If their LFD continues to be positive, they should continue to stay at home and LFD test daily until they go 2 days without having a positive result. If they are still testing

positive on day 10, they can stop LFD testing and end their isolation regardless on day 11.

- We also recommend anyone eligible in your household gets the COVID-19 vaccine if they have not done so already.

If you are concerned that your child, or a member of their household may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and are worried about them potentially being exposed to the virus, please contact me and we can discuss the protective measures we have in place in the setting, as well as jointly consider if any further action should be taken to protect your child and / or their wider household.

We know this can be an anxious time for parents / carers, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.