



Newman Pre-school Playgroup Pandemic Policy: September 2021 (revised)

Sources: Public Health England; Department of Education; Early Years Alliance; Local Authority

Aim: to use the policy to provide precautionary measures to minimise the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus and advise staff, parents, and visitors of our intentions. We will continue to be guided by our existing policies unless they conflict with this policy. Protective measures will be put in place to reduce the risk of transmission to children, families, staff, and visitors.

The main areas for consideration are:

- **Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell**
- **Maintaining personal and respiratory hygiene (by handwashing, 'catch it, bin it, kill it')**
- **Ensuring cleanliness of the pre-school environment**
- **Limiting toys to those that can be easily cleaned**
- **Testing of staff twice weekly**

Attendance

- Only children who are well should attend the setting
- Staff will risk assess any children or staff returning after a period of isolation
- Parents should inform the Preschool Leader/Deputy of any absence and the reason for it; this conforms to our existing safeguarding policy

Parents/Carers

- Only adults who are symptom free should drop off/collect their child
- Parents will only enter the setting by prior arrangement

Well-being

- Staff will teach children the steps they need to keep themselves safe including regular handwashing, coughing into an elbow, correct use of tissues, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' routine
- Staff, in particular key workers, will monitor children for any changes they may be exhibiting as a result of lockdown or isolation.
- The EYFS will be fully delivered, with a focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- There will a focus on outdoor play, weather permitting

Staff

- Staff will be fully appraised of the measures in place to minimise risk via this policy, procedures and Covid-19 cleaning protocols
- Staff should only attend the setting if symptom-free
- Staff will test using lateral flow tests twice weekly
- Regular sanitising and washing of hands
- Staff will wear PPE (mask, gloves, apron) when caring for an unwell child or carrying out personal care, such as nappy changing
- Staff should change out of work clothes when return home

Hygiene, health and safety in session

- Staff and children will sanitise hands on arrival and before going home
- Frequent hand washing/sanitising throughout the morning
- Any body fluid spills to be cleaned up as per our normal procedures and waste disposed of hygienically
- Hand sanitizer available for staff and children at all times

Cleaning

- An enhanced cleaning schedule indoors/outdoors will be followed, using our daily check list
- Touch points will be cleaned at the beginning, end and throughout the session
- Any area used by an unwell child or adult will be sanitised after use
- Leader will ensure adequate supply of cleaning materials

Toys and resources

- Toys/furniture will be cleaned during the morning as necessary, and at the end of the session
- Hard to clean toys will not be available
- Shared activities such as sand/water play and playdough will be regularly risk assessed
- Food activities will not take place

Premises

- Pre-school staff will liaise with halls staff to ensure good levels in cleanliness in the hall, toilets and communal areas and address any concerns

Responding to a suspected case

- If a child develops suspected symptoms, they should be collected immediately
- Whilst waiting to be collected, the child will be isolated
- Parents will be advised to arrange for their child to be tested via PCR test
- The carer will wear PPE and sanitise the area afterwards
- If a staff member becomes ill, they should go home immediately, take a PCR test and isolate if the test is positive, following current NHS guidance
- Return to pre-school for staff and children will be risk assessed

Closure

- Leader/committee chairperson will advise the local health protection team of any case/s and act on their guidance
- Leader will seek advice from the Dept. of Education Coronavirus Helpline: 0800 046868 and NHS 119
- In the event of a temporary closure of pre-school, or local or national lockdown, the Preschool Leader and Committee Chair will respond to guidance accordingly and update parents regularly
- Staff will provide support and activities via email and Facebook group

Policy adopted by:
on 1/9/2021

Heather Grant (Playgroup Leader)
Sophie Lindsay (Co Chair Cover of Parent Committee 2021)