



Responding to a child or staff member who is symptomatic and infection control (covid-19)

This policy includes:

1. Information about covid-19
2. Who is at risk?
3. Preventing the spread of covid-19
4. How Old Rayne Preschool will respond to suspected or confirmed cases of covid-19
5. Cleaning after a case of covid-19 (suspected or confirmed)

About covid-19

Covid-19 is an extremely infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus was initially identified in Wuhan city, China in January 2020. The majority of people who become infected will experience mild/moderate respiratory illness and will recover without specialised treatment. The symptoms are:

- **A new, persistent cough**
- **A temperature above 37.8 degrees Celsius**
- **A loss or change in sense of smell and/or taste**

This policy and associated risk assessment have been put in place to limit the spread of the infection

Who is at risk?

Anyone who enters playgroup is at risk of spreading or contracting covid-19. This includes parents, visitors, staff and children. Covid-19 can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and people with long term medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease. **Old Rayne Preschool committee will risk assess employees within the highest risk categories and may implement additional measures to make the setting (as reasonably practical) safe for those individuals. The chief medical officer advises that children in the highest risk categories can follow the same covid 19 advice as the general population.** Generally, the risk of such viruses spreading is significantly reduced when outdoors. The Scottish government released updated guidance **on the 18th of March 2022- Coronavirus (covid-19): Guidance on operating early learning and childcare services.** This guidance supersedes previous publications and can be found at: [Minimising the spread of COVID-19 - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): early learning and childcare services - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/publications/2022/03/20220318-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-operating-early-learning-and-childcare-services/)

How is covid-19 spread?

Research has found that the spreading of covid-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact with an infected person (within 2 meters) Droplets produced when an infected person sneezes or coughs (respiratory secretions) containing the virus are the most likely route for transmission. These droplets can be directly transferred into the noses or mouths of people in close proximity and could be inhaled into the lungs. It is also possible for someone to become infected after touching an object or surface that has been contaminated with droplets and then touching their face, mouth, nose or eyes.

Preventing the spread of covid-19

The general practises associated with preventing the spread of covid-19 are:

- Thorough handwashing with soap and water-rubbing the soap in for **at least 20 seconds** - all staff and children will adhere to this upon entry to playgroup, after visiting the toilet, after coughing and sneezing, before and after eating and when moving between areas eg indoors and outdoors
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, disposing of tissue and washing hands (“catch it, bin it, kill it”)
- **Isolating if symptomatic, testing positive, or a close contact aged over 18 years 4 months and not fully vaccinated**
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Using hand gel regularly where soap and water is not available
- Good ventilation in indoor spaces
- Maintaining a social distance between adults
- The use of face coverings when adults are close to each other
- Our staff are provided information about vaccine/booster **programmes and encouraged/supported to get vaccinated**
- **Staff no longer are required to take part in asymptomatic testing twice a week**
- In addition to a general covid risk assessment our staff maintain and adhere to individual activity risk assessments with covid specific controls

Cleaning

We will undertake increased, frequent cleaning and sterilising of toys and resources, high touch points will continue to be cleaned at least once daily. Furniture, surfaces and toys will be cleaned using either the dishwasher, a washing machine, hot soapy water followed by sterilising solution, or anti-bacterial wipes using the manufactures advice on use. The staff will ensure detailed cleaning records are kept.

Activities

Water play will be provided with the water being changed daily and the toys and tray being cleaned between each session. Sand play will be provided where sand toys will cleaned/changed between sessions. Risk assessments determine that children should wash hands before and after water/sand play. Play dough will be accessible with the toys being cleaned between each session and the dough being replaced daily. Any sensory play activity such as shaving foam, jelly play etc will be used for one session only. In times where people are struggling, we will aim to keep sensory play with food to a minimum. There is no longer a requirement to limit singing in any capacity.

Children will once again be encouraged to benefit from preparing and serving their own snack under close supervision to ensure hygiene standards are met-eg hand washing, cough etiquette. Children and adults will dispose of their own food waste.

Social distancing

In line with the Scottish government's guidance staff will not be expected to maintain distancing with children. All adults (staff, professionals, inspectors and parents) will comply with the recommended distancing from other adults where possible. Parents will be asked to wear face coverings at drop off and pick-up times. Signs are displayed to remind/prompt parents and staff. Staff will wear face coverings when communicating with parents at the **start and** end of the session. Soft drop off and pick times have been re-introduced to reduce crowds gathering or people waiting. **In confined spaces such as the kitchen, hallway and bathrooms we will aim for 1 adult at a time in these spaces, if this is not practicable staff in confined spaces will wear face coverings.** Staff will wear face coverings or sit 2 meters apart for staff meetings. Outdoor play will be encouraged as much as possible. Visitors will be granted access to the building at the managers discretion and these may be limited to essential professionals such as speech therapist or representatives/inspectors from care inspectorate or parents of children who require the support of their parent through transitions. Parents visiting will be required to follow our distancing, handwashing and face covering practices. When new children/parents are visiting we will aim to limit contacts by assigning 1 staff member to support the family.

Maximising outdoor play

Research and guidance informs us that the likeliness of transmission is significantly lower outdoors. For this reason, we will operate free flow access to outdoors when staffing allows and spend more time outdoors generally. When making use of public spaces the staff will ensure playgroup children do not have close contact with other people in the community.

Ventilation

The internal door to the bathroom, bathroom windows and kitchen windows will be open during session to maximise ventilation. The temperature will be closely monitored to ensure increased ventilation does not cause the main hall to fall below 16 degrees Celsius. A co2 monitor will be used regularly (**at least once a term**) to identify areas where more ventilation is needed, reading must be below 1500bpm

Responding to a suspected or confirmed case of covid-19 within the setting

In the event of a child showing symptoms at playgroup the child will be confined to the annex room with 1 staff member. This should, where possible, be the child's keyworker. The manager will ensure this does not affect child/staff ratios for the other children-accessing staff who are not in that day or a volunteer from the committee if need be. Prompt arrangements for the child to be collected will be made. The annex doors will be closed and the window and door to the fire exit will be open. The staff member will wear apron, gloves and face mask and maintain a reasonable distance with high regard for the child's emotional well-being. If not too upsetting for the child they will be encouraged to wear a face mask. In an emergency where symptoms are severe the manager will call 999.

The family should report the symptoms and **should confirm covid 19 via a lateral flow device or** arrange for a covid-19 test via 0800 028 2816 or www.nhsinform.scot. This contact information will be provided to the parent upon collection of their child. The family must inform the manager if the suspected symptoms are confirmed as covid-19. If tests for the symptomatic person are negative there is no longer a requirement to isolate and your child can come back to playgroup. The staff member does not need to self-isolate unless they start displaying symptoms themselves. **Any child with suspected or confirmed covid-19 are not permitted to return to playgroup until the isolation period is completed or a negative test result has been obtained.**

The remaining children will spend the remainder of the session outdoors or in the main hall (if weather very bad) while the annex room undergoes a deep clean by the same member of staff.

In the event of a staff member displaying symptoms of covid-19 they will be sent home immediately to isolate in line with NHS guidance. The staff member must take a lateral flow device test or arrange for a covid-19 test via 0800 028 2816 or [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested -](#)

[GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) This link is specific for essential workers and as such tests will be processed faster. The staff member must inform the manager (or chairperson-Claire Miller if the staff member is the manager) if the symptoms are confirmed as covid-19. Any staff member isolating with Covid-19 symptoms will receive full pay for the isolation period. If a PCR test is negative the staff member can return to work immediately.

We are no longer required to inform parents of individual cases of covid 19 although, as with other infections, parents will be informed of outbreaks.

Close contacts-Individuals under 18 years and 4 months who are not showing symptoms do not have to isolate but must undertake a daily lateral flow test and be negative. If you're a close contact who is fully vaccinated, you can take daily LFD tests instead of self-isolating. Fully vaccinated means you've received 3 doses of an approved vaccine at least 14 days before you last saw the person who tested positive.

Cleaning the setting after a suspected case of covid-19

All surfaces that the suspected case has come in to contact with must be cleaned with disposable cloths and hot soapy water in line with current procedures. This includes all surfaces and objects that are visibly contaminated with bodily fluids and all POTENTIALLY contaminated high-contact areas. This may include, but is not limited to, light switches, door handles, furniture, doors and toys. The staff member will wear face mask, disposable apron and disposable gloves. The annex room will be mopped with hot water and floor cleaner. Soft furnishings and mop heads will be double bagged and removed for cleaning in a washing machine. The main hall will then be cleaned to the same standard. All disposable items such as gloves and aprons will be double bagged and immediately disposed of in the outdoor bin.

If there is a suspected covid case at playgroup the manager will cancel any external visitors scheduled for the next 72 hours to allow time for pcr test results to return.

Responding to an outbreak

An outbreak is defined as having 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days. If this happens Playgroup will follow NHS guidance by reporting the outbreak to the local health protection team (NHS Grampian) on 01224 558520/0345 456 6000/ Grampian.healthprotection@nhs.net. We are no longer required to inform them of each individual case. We will then follow their advice. In the case of an outbreak, we will inform settings which we have split placement children with. Contact details: Dreams Inch 01464 821155 Or 07787805733
Uryside:01467 536800

Care inspectorate will be informed of positive cases.