

Essential Policies & Procedures for the EYFS

COVID-19 Update July 2020

As described in the government guidance, [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) (updated 15th March 2021):

'Settings are also responsible for planning and implementing appropriate protective measures to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. Section 3 of this guidance sets out the public health advice which early years settings must follow. It also includes the process that should be followed if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while attending. This guidance has been developed with advice from Public Health England (PHE).

*'These measures make up a 'system of controls', described in section 3, building on the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are keeping the protective measures under review, in line with the latest scientific advice.'**

*Please refer directly to the guidance for further information and for any updates.

Therefore, providers can either choose to update their policies in line with the 'systems of controls', or use them as a separate procedure, as provided here.

'The system of controls provides a set of principles and if settings follow this advice, they will effectively minimise risks. All elements of the system of controls are essential. All settings must cover them all, but the way different settings implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances. Where something is essential for public health reasons, as advised by PHE, we have said 'must'. Where there is a legal requirement we have made that clear.'

'System of controls

This is the set of actions early years settings must take. They are outlined in more detail below.

Prevention:

- 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*
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.*
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.*
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by providing the 'catch it', 'bin it'. 'kill it' approach.*
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products such as detergents.*
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across setting and maintain social distancing wherever possible.*
- 7) Keep organised spaces well ventilated.*
- 8) Ensure all individuals wear PPE(Personal protective equipment) where necessary.*

Numbers 1 to 7 must be in place in all settings, all the time.

Number 8 and 9 applies in all specific circumstances.

Response to any infection:

10) engage with the NHS Track and Trace process

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

12) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 10 to 12 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.'

Local outbreak of COVID-19

In the event of a local outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19), the government will take action to control the spread of the virus. As has occurred in Leicester, people in the affected area may be asked to stay at home as much as they can and not travel unless essential. Any providers who are affected by a local outbreak will receive specific guidance for their area. For providers in Leicester, guidance can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-lockdowns-guidance-for-education-and-childcare-settings.

Further guidance on COVID-19 related matters, can be found at www.eyalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-early-years.