**ATTENDING CROFTON EARLY LEARNERS FROM JANUARY 2022**

**Key Messages & Actions Basic principles**

Following basic principles and Government guidance can help keep children and staff safe at preschool and help stop the spread of this disease. To this end:

• Avoid contact with anyone with symptoms.

• Sick children and staff should not come to preschool. Remember that symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or fever can be similar to those of the flu, or the common cold, which are a lot more common. If your child is sick, keep them home from school and notify the preschool of your child’s absence and symptoms.

• Households with sick residents should carefully consider whether to send their children into preschool unless strict isolation guidelines are being followed and daily lateral flow tests should be undertaken to reduce the risk to other members of the preschool. Residents with COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days unless they receive two consecutive negative lateral flow tests from days 5 and 6.

**ILLNESS AND INFECTION CONTROL**

**How we will use reasonable endeavours to work to ensure the highest safety standards:**

We will:

* ensure staff undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests;
* question parents/cares about family health prior to child entry if we deem that necessary;
* take children’s temperatures using an infra-red thermometer on entry to the building (any child showing a temperature range outside of green will be asked to return home);
* ask all adults to remain outside the premises;
* ask that bags are only brought in where they contain nappy changing equipment;
* not provide storage for buggies, scooters, bikes etc;
* enforce frequent hand washing with safe water and soap and, at a minimum, daily disinfection and cleaning of school surfaces;
* supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands more often than usual, thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered;
* clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products;
* provide water, sanitation and waste management facilities and follow environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures;
* use reasonable endeavours to ensure children do not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others;
* provide PPE for staff undertaking intimate care or care for sick children;
* provide separate, closed off space for children who become sick on site;
* notify parents daily by posters outside/WhatsApp messages if anyone in the setting develops the virus;
* use outdoor provision to help with minimising infection spread, health and well-being and promoting children’s development;
* use reasonable endeavours slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease, including limiting large groups of people coming together) amongst parents and with children as much as is possible, by:
* using the preschool playground for entry to the premises;
* avoiding unnecessary touching and integrating disease prevention and control in daily activities.

We may also

* cancel all visitors (replacing show rounds with afternoon sessions);
* cancel events that create crowded conditions.

**RECOGNISE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

During the COVID-19 outbreak, parents and staff should be aware of and look out for signs and symptoms.

The most important symptoms are recent onset of any of the following:

* a new continuous cough
* a high temperature
* shortness of breath
* a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

1. Child presents with symptoms; parents are requested to collect child must self-isolate immediately and get a test. Tests for symptomatic illness can obtained through
2. https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
3. Child’s parents are requested to inform CEL of the outcome/diagnosis at the earliest possible opportunity and keep child at home for the recommended exclusion period. For cases of suspected Coronavirus, staff and service users must adhere to current Government advice regarding self-isolation even if no symptoms are present.

Remember that symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or fever can be similar to those of the flu, or the common cold, which are a lot more common. **If your child is sick, keep them home from school and notify the preschool of your child’s absence and symptoms. This is extremely important.**

**CHECKLIST FOR PRE-SCHOOL STAFF**

* Promote and demonstrate regular hand washing and positive hygiene behaviours and monitor their uptake.
* Ensure soap and safe water is available at age-appropriate hand washing stations
* Encourage frequent and thorough washing (at least 20 seconds)
* Ensure easy access to hand sanitizers
* Ensure adequate, clean and separate toilets for girls and boys

1. Disinfect surfaces and small items ensuring appropriate equipment for cleaning is used. Increase air flow and ventilation where climate allows (open windows, use air conditioning where available, etc.)
2. Post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices
3. Ensure waste is removed daily and disposed of safely, if necessary double wrapped, and placed in the paladin.
4. Ensure rotation of resources, allowing a 72 hour turn around at minimum.

For confirmed cases of a notifiable disease and Coronavirus CEL will contact Ofsted. If there are 5 or more cases we will contact the local Health Protection Team (HPT) as soon as possible for further guidance. The Leader will inform the Trustees and retain a confidential record.

Acting on the advice of the local HPT we will either:

* close for a set period and undertake a deep clean
* carry on as usual but also undertake a deep clean

If a notifiable disease is confirmed, staff will inform the line manager immediately and Ofsted will be informed. Cases of confirmed Coronavirus will be treated as a notifiable disease.

**CHECKLIST AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS**

1. Monitor your child’s health and keep them home from school if they are ill. Do not ask us to make ‘doorstep’ decisions.
2. Teach and model good hygiene practices for your children:

* Wash hands thoroughly with soap and safe water frequently. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and running water (do not use the basin with the plug in).
* Ensure that safe drinking water is available and toilets are clean at home
* Ensure waste is safely collected, stored and disposed of
* Encourage children to cough and sneeze into a tissue, dispose of it appropriately and wash hands, or into your elbow and avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose

1. Prevent stigma by using facts and reminding children to be considerate of one another
2. Coordinate with the pre-school to receive information and ask how you can support school safety efforts (through WhatsApp.)
3. Ensure that the preschool have up to date emergency contacts and ensure that carers can be contacted at any point during the preschool day.
4. Ensure that children who fall sick whilst in the setting are collected speedily.
5. Encourage your child(ren) to ask questions and express their feelings with you and their teachers. Remember that your child may have different reactions to stress; be patient and understanding. For example, if your child is feeling sick and staying at home or the hospital, you could say, “You have to stay at home/at the hospital because it is safer for you and your friends. I know it is hard (maybe scary or even boring) at times, but we need to follow the rules to keep ourselves and others safe. Things will go back to normal soon.” . Keep regular routines and schedules as much as possible, especially before they go to sleep, or help create new ones in a new environment. Provide age-appropriate facts about what has happened, explain what is going on and give them clear examples on what they can do to help protect themselves and others from infection. Share information about what could happen in a reassuring way.
6. Let us know your anxieties – we cannot know how lock-down has affected your children during this critical time in their development.

**CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS TO WORK ON WITH CHILDREN**

* Wash hands frequently, always with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds
* Remember to not touch your face, especially fingers in mouths and noses.
* Do not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others
* Teach and model good practices such as sneezing (children to blow own nose and bin tissues safely, not wiping noses on clothing) or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members
* Tell your carers or teachers if you feel sick/ill
* If you feel poorly ask to stay home
* Manage own coat – learn to hang and be able to find.