**RC(CV06) - RAINBOW CORNER PLAYGROUP & PRE-SCHOOL  
POLICY FOR COVID 19**

1. Information about the virus  
  
A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

* cough
* difficulty in breathing
* fever
* loss of taste/smell

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

1.1 How COVID-19 is spread  
  
From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 meters) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (termed respiratory secretions) containing the virus are most likely to be the most important means of transmission.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

* secretions can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who are nearby (within 2 meters) or could be inhaled into the lungs
* it is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching a door knob or shaking hands then touching own face).

2.Preventing the spread of infection  
  
There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.   
  
There are general principles to help prevent the spread of respiratory virus, including:

* Washing your hands often (20 seconds or longer) – with soap and water or use alcohol sanitizer if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
* Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the bin.  
  Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
* People who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
* Children staff and visitors should wash their hands:
* Before leaving home
* On arrival at nursery
* After using the toilet
* After outdoor play
* Before food preparation
* Before eating any food, including snacks
* Before leaving nursery
* Use an alcohol – based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
* Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
* Wearing appropriate PPE if supporting a child or colleague who has suspected or confirmed COVID-19
* If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague. Please call NHS 111
* For further information go to the NHS UK Website

2.1 Cleaning routines  
  
Daily cleaning routines will largely remain the same, as high standards of good hygiene are currently in place.

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, telephone, keyboard, tables, toilets, toys and resources using appropriate cleaning products and methods. The setting will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.

2.2 Hand washing routines   
  
To ensure the staff, and children are washing their hands in line with the current guidelines the following will be put in place

* On arrival to nursery all adults will sanitise their hands before entering the building
* On arrival all children will have their hands sanitised before entering the building
* Staff should wash their own hands before supporting a child to wash theirs
* During the day children and staff with wash their hands after going to the toilet or having their nappy changed, before meals or snacks
* Staff should wash hands before putting on any PPE
* Staff will encourage children the to wash their hands with soap and water, and for at least twenty seconds

2.3 Social Distancing and further measures to protect the infection

* One adult only per child to attend the setting to drop off or collect. Parents will not be permitted to enter the setting unless it is an emergency.
* Parents will drop their child to the relevant door, parents will be required to social distance queue outside.
* In each room the staff will be responsible for signing children in / out of the setting
* Every child will be required to have a bag with a change of clothes, once brought in and a staff member will ask for more clothes if required
* No personal items such as toys will be allowed in the setting
* If a child has a comforter the parent will be asked if possible, to provide a spare to be kept in the setting.

3. Guidance on dealing with a suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19

3.1 What to do if a child or adult becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19

* Call the child’s parent to request they collect their child form the nursery immediately
* The staff member should leave the nursery immediately and return home
* Call NHS 111, or 999 in an emergency (if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk), and if appropriate, explain which country they have returned from in the last 14 days. You can do this on their behalf if this is easier. People who become unwell should be advised not to go to their GP, pharmacy, urgent care Centre or a hospital.
* Whilst you wait for advice from NHS 111 or an ambulance to arrive, try to find somewhere safe for the unwell person to sit which is at least 2 meters away from other people. If possible, find a room or area where they can be isolated behind a shut door, this will be the settings office. If it is possible to open a window, do so for ventilation. They should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects and be advised to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the bin. If no bin is available, put the tissue in a bag or pocket for disposing in a bin later. If you do not have any tissues available, they should cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow. The room will need to be cleaned once they leave.
* The adult must wear appropriate PPE to attend to the child
* If they need to go to the bathroom whilst waiting for medical assistance, this should be cleaned immediately.
* Make sure that children and young people know to tell a member of staff if they feel unwell.

3.2 Getting tested

The parent of the child or staff member who has symptoms must contact 111 or apply online immediately and request a test.

Test are available to all staff members and families

If any person in a staff’s or child’s household shows signs of COVID-19 the family must get tested immediately. They cannot attend the setting whilst they await the results and the entire household must isolate.

The nursery must be informed of the results as soon as possible to enable appropriate action to be put in place if required.

3.3 What to do if a case of COVID-19 is suspected in the setting

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in the setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.

Therefore, until the outcome of test results is known there is no action that staff members need to take apart from cleaning specific areas and disposing of waste.

Once the results arrive, those who test negative for COVID-19 will be advised individually about return to the setting.

3.4 What to do if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the pre-school

The setting will need to contact local Public Health England Health Protection Team to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. An assessment of each childcare or education setting will be undertaken by the Health Protection Team with relevant staff. Advice on the management of children and staff will be based on this assessment.

The Health Protection Team will also be in contact with the patient directly to advise on isolation and identifying other contacts and will be in touch with any contacts of the patient to provide them with appropriate advice. Advice on cleaning of communal areas such as playrooms and toilets will be given by the Health Protection Team.

If there is a confirmed case, a risk assessment will be undertaken by Rainbow Corner Playgroup & Pre-School with advice from the local Health Protection Team.

In most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary, but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing.

3.5 What to do if children or staff in the pre-school are contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 who was symptomatic while attending the setting

The definition of a contact includes:

* Any child or staff member in close face to face or touching contact
* Talking with or being coughed on for any length of time while the individual is symptomatic
* Anyone who has cleaned up any bodily fluids of the individual
* Close friendship groups
* Any child or staff member living in the same household as a confirmed case

Contacts are not considered cases and if they are well, they are very unlikely to have spread the infection to others, however:

* they will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the last time they had contact with the confirmed case and follow the home isolation guidance
* they will be actively followed up by the Health Protection Team
* if they develop any symptoms within their 14-day observation period they should call NHS 111 for assessment
* if they become unwell with cough, fever, or shortness of breath they will be tested for COVID-19
* if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of potential contact with COVID-19
* if they are unwell at any time within their 14-day observation period and they test positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated for the infection

Family and friends who have not had close contact (as listed above) with the original confirmed case do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities such as attending childcare or educational settings or work, unless they become unwell. If they become unwell, they should call NHS 111 and explain their symptoms and discuss any known contact with the case to consider if they need further assessment.

If a confirmed case occurs in the pre-school the local Health Protection Team will provide you with advice and will work with the management team. Outside those that are defined as close contacts, the rest of the pre-school does not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities attending educational establishments or work as usual, unless they become unwell. If they become unwell, they will be assessed as a suspected case depending on their symptoms. This advice applies to staff and children in the rest of the setting. The decision as to whether children and staff fall into this contact group or the closer contact group will be made between the Health Protection Team, the pre-school and (if they are old enough) the child. Advice should be given as follows:

* if they become unwell with cough, fever, or shortness of breath they will be asked to self-isolate and should seek medical advice from NHS 111
* if they are unwell at any time within the 14 days of contact and they are tested and are positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated as such.

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