



**SMARTIES PRESCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL
COVID-19 OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN
CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Aim of the plan

If our setting or local area experiences an extremely high COVID-19 infection rate and existing measures have failed to reduce this, the appropriate authorities will decide which additional measures need to be implemented to reduce the spread of the virus.

These measures could involve re-introducing some of our stricter control measures and restrictions could include closure of childcare settings in our area.

This plan outlines how we as a setting will operate if further restrictions are put in place. The setting will, as always, work closely with the Local Authority and our local Health Protection team and follow advice.

This Outbreak Management Plan is a fluid document and will be reviewed and updated by the Pre-School Manager as and when guidance and advice changes.

This plan is based on the Government Guidance, Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will only implement some or all additional measures in response to the above Government Guidance changing or in response to advice from our Local Authority or our local Public Health team.

It may be necessary to increase our control measures in the following circumstances, adhering to the following thresholds:

- There are 5 positive cases amongst children or staff who are likely to have mixed within a 10-day period.
- If 10% of children in setting or staff are likely to have mixed with a positive test within a 10-day period.
- Local infection rates increase
- A new variant requires increased measures
- To prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Infection prevention and control measures

From the start of the academic year, the following measures are being stepped down:

1. Settings do not need to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Close contacts under the age of 5 years old, identified as a close contact of a positive case, should take an LFT every day for seven days and continue to attend their education setting as normal unless a positive result is recorded, or they develop symptoms.
2. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:
 - a) They are fully vaccinated
 - b) They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - c) They are not eligible to be vaccinated for medical reasons
 - d) They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

Adults will need to continue to follow the same rules as unvaccinated adults until two weeks after their second dose. Unvaccinated adults and adults who have only had one dose of the vaccine will need to continue to follow the rules on self-isolation if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case.

From 17th January 2022, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result has been reduced to **five days if a negative lateral flow test is recorded on day five or day six**. The first test must be taken no earlier than day five and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete ten full days of self-isolation.

From 11th January 2022, confirmatory PCR tests following a positive LFT have been suspended. This means for all childcare settings, staff and students who have tested and reported a positive LFT will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test. However those under 5 with symptoms are still advised to take a PCR and remain at home until the results are provided.

3. Face coverings are no longer recommended for staff, parents or visitors and therefore they do not need to be worn on the school site for drop off and collections. Parents are welcome to continue to wear them if they prefer.

In the event of a local outbreak or significant number of cases within our setting, we will continue work with health protection teams and may temporarily re-introduce more stringent control measures. If there is a positive case identified at our setting, we will contact our Local Authority Childcare Development Officer who will advise on the course of action to be taken in line with current public health advice. We will notify parents and advise them to be vigilant of COVID-19 symptoms but the setting will not close and children do not need to self-isolate unless advised by NHS Test and Trace. If you are contacted by Test and Trace, children under the age of 5 years old will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is within their own household.

If several positive cases do arise in setting, we will have to consider increasing protective measures using the thresholds discussed above. When a threshold is met, the setting will review the current protective measures in place and consider whether more activities can take place outside, re-introducing face masks, ways to improve ventilation and one-off deep cleans of equipment and resources.

These may include limiting:

- Parents and external visitors in setting
- Open days
- Live performances

We may re-introduce the following measures:

- Facemasks
- Bubbles to reduce the mixing of year groups (Out of School Club)
- Increased frequency of LFD testing

We will only restrict attendance to the setting as a last resort, if these restrictions are recommended, or if cases affect staff, we may need to reduce the number of children we have in setting to maintain our ratios. In this case, spaces will be prioritised in the following order:

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1. Keyworker and Vulnerable children
2. School Leavers
3. Non-School Leaver 3-Year-olds
4. 2-Year-olds

If we need to restrict attendance, spaces will be prioritised in the following order:

1. Keyworkers and Vulnerable children
2. Children with parents/carers not working at home
3. Children with parents/carers working from home

The following control measures will continue to be in place from the start of the academic year:

1. Hand Hygiene – Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is a regular practice and will continue throughout the sessions. Children will wash their hands upon arrival to the setting, throughout their session and before they go home.
2. Respiratory Hygiene – The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach will continue to be encouraged in an age-appropriate way for our setting.
3. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – our enhanced cleaning schedules will remain in place which includes regular cleaning of all areas, equipment and resources with a focus on frequently touched surfaces.
4. When the setting is in operation, it will remain well ventilated to ensure a fresh air flow throughout the setting.
5. CO₂ monitoring to ensure good ventilation throughout the setting.
6. Regular staff testing.
7. All staff, parents and children travelling abroad must adhere to travel legislation with regards to which countries are on the red, amber or green list. Parents must consider any requirements in place for quarantine or isolation on return.

Children, staff and parents should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

They should not come to the setting if they have or their children have symptoms of Covid-19 or other reasons such as if they are required to quarantine. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in setting, they will wait in a room for collection with a member of staff who will be wearing appropriate PPE. This room will be cleaned once your child has been

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collected. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care> You will need to follow public health advice on the next steps which should be taken.

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission and Early Years staff are still required to undertake two LFD tests weekly.

Staff with a positive lateral flow test should self-isolate in line with COVID-19 guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The [Department for Education Contingency Framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities and directors of public health can recommend measures described in the contingency framework for individual education and childcare settings, if the number of positive cases increases substantially.

- **As part of the response to COVID-19 cases in education settings the local Public Health team are recommending 7-days of daily testing with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for students in Year 3 and above when somebody else in their home has tested positive. Public Health are also encouraging families with younger children (i.e., in Year 2 and below) to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.** Transmission in household settings is very common, even when people are vaccinated.
- **Household contacts of a positive case who are in Year 3 and above** are also strongly encouraged to take a **daily LFD test before school or college for 7 days** and attend only if their lateral flow test is negative. **Families with younger children (i.e., in Year 2 and below) are also advised to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.**
- Lateral flow tests should be taken for **7 days from the date of the first COVID-19 symptoms in the household**, or from the date of the first positive test if there were no symptoms.
- In addition to this, **all household contacts of a positive case, including children in Year 2 and below, are encouraged to follow national guidance and to take a PCR test.**

People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days **do not** need to participate in daily LFD testing or be re-tested with PCR.

Safeguarding

We will continue to ensure our safeguarding arrangements remain in place during period of closure/restricted attendance.

There is always a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Deputy on site:

DSL – Michelle Haley – smartiesmanager@gmail.com 01763 852888

Deputy DSL – Georgina Dowley – smartiesoosc@gmail.com 01763 852888

Communication

The setting will communicate any changes to its Covid Response to parents and all relevant parties.

Review

Updated: 24th January 2022

This plan will be continually monitored and reviewed in line with current government guidance and advice.