



Coronavirus / COVID-19 Policy

York Childcare recognises the importance of planning in order to maintain services and limit the spread of the new coronavirus, known as COVID-19, within our settings.

COVID-19 is a viral infection similar to flu, spread from person to person by close contact. It typically causes fever and a dry cough, and in some cases may progress to viral pneumonia. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

Cough	Sore throat
Fever	Tiredness
Difficulty breathing	Loss of taste / sense of smell

The initial symptoms are not dissimilar to other colds and flu-type illnesses, and the [NHS website](#) provides the most up to date information about COVID-19.

This document should be read in conjunction with York Childcare's detailed Operational Risk Assessment for Epidemic & Pandemic Diseases COVID19, accessible on the [York Childcare website](#), however this policy is designed to provide a summary of our approach to infection control, advance planning and potential closure of our settings.

Suspected cases of COVID-19

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be COVID-19 while at a York Childcare Nursery will be isolated from the other children until the child can be collected by his or her parents.

Should any children or staff experience symptoms of COVID-19 they should stay away from the nursery until all symptoms have passed and they test negative for the virus, following current self-isolation and testing requirements.

Parents who test positive for Covid 19 must ensure their child takes a PCR test. If the child's PCR test is negative and proof is provided to the nursery the child may then continue to attend nursery. The child must take a Lateral Flow Test each day during the 10-day isolation period for the adult with Covid19.

Should parents refuse a PCR test for their child, they must keep their child at home during their 10-day isolation period.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Contact Tracing staff will now contact parents of children testing positive to identify other potential contacts and will advise of any actions to be taken.

Please be aware that unless advised otherwise by the local Health Protection Team (HPT) or Local Authority (City of York Council) we intend to keep our nursery settings open.



Infection control

Like the common cold and other flu viruses, COVID-19 is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance.
- Direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands. Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 within York Childcare by:

- Maintaining a good flow of air through regular opening of windows
- Regular handwashing by staff and children
- Minimising contact between our hands and mouth/nose
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing; using a tissue when possible, and disposing of the tissue promptly and carefully (bag it and bin it)
- Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. door handles, light-switches, tables, etc) and play equipment with sanitizer frequently
- Encouraging the children at each nursery to follow the guidance above
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant symptoms or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work. Staff will be required to follow the government's current self-isolation and testing guidance.

At York Childcare we will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition we will:

- Display posters and information to promote infection control
- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal
- Implement an operational risk assessment, reviewing it regularly to ensure it remains up to date with government guidelines

Closure

There may be some occasions when we will have to consider temporarily closing a nursery because we have too few unaffected staff to run sessions safely. If this occurs the manager will contact City of York Council, Early Years and Childcare Quality Improvement Service for further support and guidance.

Nurseries will also have to close if advised to do so by the Local Authority, Public Health England or the Local Health Protection Team.

In the event of closure, the manager will notify parents or carers as soon as possible. The manager will also inform the local Early Years and Childcare Quality Improvement Service as well as other relevant parties, eg adjoining schools, other users of shared premises, etc. The manager will also notify Ofsted of the closure.



Advance planning

Each nursery will ensure that all contact details for staff, children and parents are up to date.

Letters of notification for parents and staff will be prepared in advance, so that they can be distributed immediately if an outbreak occurs.

We will endeavour to use supply staff or trusted childcare agencies who are able to provide cover should staffing levels look like they may fall below the required legal minimums. Any relief staff will be DBS checked and they will also be fully briefed on York Childcare's COVID-19 policy and associated risk assessment.

York Childcare will regularly update its information regarding COVID-19, by checking the latest guidance from Public Health England and the local authority and will inform parents and staff of any changes. Please see the Latest News section on our website and follow our Facebook page for up to date information.

Useful contacts

City of York Council Early Years and Childcare Quality Improvement Service: 01904 554313

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

PHE North Yorkshire and the Humber Health Protection Team (HPT): 0114 304 9843

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021):
Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.45].