

d. Virus & Infection Control Policy

Some viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, or coming into contact with an infectious person or a surface they've touched. Viruses and infections can also be spread through coughs or sneezes, blood or fecal matter through hand or facial contact.

Our Aims:

Nursery Village aim to ensure a safe and nurturing environment, maintaining the good health and safety of all those on site, through minimised exposure and risk of any illness, virus or infection.

Policy

As set out in our [Children's Sickness Policy](#), we cannot accept any child who is unwell or who has had a serious infectious illness. It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and specific NHS guidelines relating to children under 5.

In addition, further restrictions or specific policies may be used from time to time, such as our Covid-19 Nursery Policy (May 2020). These policies will set out specific measures that apply in that case, which may detail further exclusions and their criteria.

Nursery Village staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Procedures

The best way to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery environment, is to maintain thorough hygiene standards in the nursery. To do this we will always follow our Policies and Procedures, current best practice guidelines as well as specific guidance below:

- Ensure where possible staff and children use tissues when coughing or sneezing to catch all germs.
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of.
- Encourage all children to do the above by discussing the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy.
- Staff all wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately.
- All potties and changing mats are cleaned with Anti Bacterial spray before and after each use.

- All toilets are cleaned at least daily and, in the event of contact with an infectious illness they should be cleaned after each use.
- Appropriate hand washing and cleaning procedures should always be followed when handling food. All staff are trained in Food Hygiene practices.
- Staff are to remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this.
- All toys, equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using an antibacterial cleanser or washing machine.
- All equipment used by babies and toddlers, may be washed or cleaned additionally on an as needed basis, for example when the children have placed it in their mouth.
- Dummies will be stored in children's bags which should be labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination.
- If a dummy or bottle falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, this is cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary.
- Individual bedding will be used by children and labelled. This will be washed at least once a week and not used for any other child.
- Parents and visitors will be required to remove all outdoor footwear or use shoe covers when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor.
- During specific measures from time to time, Parents or Visitors may not be permitted to enter the nursery at all, such as our Covid-19 Nursery Policy (May 2020).
- When children are ill, we will follow the [Children's Sickness Policy](#) or any additional policies or Government guidance to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Children and Staff may be required to stay at home if they are contagious.
- Overall and final responsibility for Health & Safety rests with the Nursery Manager, including the right to refuse entry to any children, parents, staff or visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery.
- Parents will be made aware of these procedures, in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery at any time.
- Periodically, each room in the nursery undergoes a deep clean routine, including all equipment, surfaces and soft furnishings to minimize the spread of infection. These routines are brought forward or increased, if and when the risk requires it.
- The nursery maintains stocks of tissues, antibacterial hand washing and cleaning equipment, sterilising fluid and PPE as required.

In the event of an outbreak or case of infectious illness, extra measures may be considered and put into place which may include but are not limited to:

- Deep clean of all toilets twice daily including anti bacterial cleaning of each toilet after use.
- A Toilet Monitor may be put into place, to support and ensure children's safety and hygiene whilst using toilets.
- Hand washing procedures and routines will be put into place to increase hand hygiene and stop any spread of infection or virus.
- A full deep clean of the nursery will be carried out by staff at the end of each day, including door handles and touch plates, changing areas, chairs and tables.
- We may deem it necessary to employ an external agency for periodic deep cleaning after the nursery closes to ensure nothing is missed.

A full risk assessment will be carried out to decide if any extra measures are needed on a case by case basis.