



04 Health procedures

04.05a Managing a suspected case of Coronavirus

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss of change to smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please refer to the latest government guidance on [next-steps-for-living-with-COVID](#). If it is suspected that a child has COVID, staff do not attempt to diagnose or make assumptions about symptoms presented. They respond immediately and take action as detailed in this procedure. This includes asking parents/carers to seek further advice from a medical practitioner. If the child appears well and displays no further suspect symptoms, they can return to the pre-school within the timescale advised by the medical practitioner.

The focus on coronavirus must not detract from staff being alert to the signs and symptoms linked to other serious illness as detailed below:

What to do if a child seems very unwell

Children still get illnesses that can make them very unwell quickly. It is important to get seek medical help and to contact the child's parents/carers immediately.

Call 999 if a child:

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a seizure or fit for the first time
- has unusually cold hands
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin
- has a weak, high-pitched cry that is not like their usual cry
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards
- is not responding like they normally do

Being prepared

- All staff are aware of this procedure and their responsibility if a child becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms at the pre-school.
- Staff are instructed in how to remove and dispose of PPE equipment safely – this includes aprons and gloves worn during routine care procedures. The [NHS guide to putting on and removing PPE](#) notice is on display in the pre-school.

If a child becomes unwell

- If a child is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus. The manager/deputy calls their parents/carers to collect them.
- Contact is maintained with the parent/carer of the child who was sent home and ensure they know that their child is entitled to a test and encourage them to get their child tested.
- Parents/carers are asked to let the pre-school manager/deputy know the outcome of a test as soon as possible.
- If the test result is positive, all the other parents/carers will be informed that a child has tested positive and remind them to be aware of the symptoms to look out for.
- If an outbreak (3 - 4 children or staff members) occurs, the local authority and Ofsted will be informed.

July 2023