**Illness and infectious diseases**

It is my policy to keep children safe when they are in my care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting and while I am off site.

**Procedures**

In light of COVID-19, I will be asking parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/household in order to protect others that are using my service and my own family. I will share updates about my own family’s health and where appropriate the health of staff members families. I will expect all parents/carers to take necessary steps and follow Government guidance to prevent the spread of the disease, for example complying with current guidance about who you can meet up with and appropriate social distancing. In addition, I will comply with this guidance to ensure the safety of my own family and those that access my childcare service. Failure to comply with Government guidance may result in termination of the contract.

**Sick Children - COVID-19**

If a child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, loss or change in sense of taster or smell, or a high temperature they must be collected and parents will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a ventilated room or the garden under the canopy where they can be isolated, with appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, I will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will be escorted to the cubicle maintaining social distancing, the cubicle will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

I will wear appropriate PPE when caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough, loss or change in sense of taster or smell, or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. They will wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell, and the affected area will be cleaned with normal household disinfectant

Should I or any family member develop symptoms of coronavirus I will get tested, self-isolate for ten days and fellow household members will self-isolate for 14 days. In this circumstance, you will not be charged for any period that I have to close my setting.

All staff and children who attend my setting will be able to access a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where a child tests negative, they can return to my setting and their household members can end their self-isolation in accordance with government guidance.

Where a child, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the other children within my setting will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of these families do not need to self-isolate unless their child subsequently develops symptoms.

**Other illnesses**

If a child in my setting becomes ill whilst in my care, or whom I believe has an infectious illness or disease I will;

* Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
* Ensure the child is excluded from my setting until they are well or follow exclusion guidance in accordance with Health Authority guidelines.

If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification I will inform the parents/guardians of my concerns and act on advice given by Public Health England (details of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>) as to when they will be able to return to my setting.  I will also inform Ofsted of any action taken.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents I expect to be paid for the child’s place even if they are excluded from my setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

If I, or one of the members of my family, has a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform parents as soon as I am able. In this instance, if I am not be able to offer my childminding service, I do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

I will inform the parents of the other children in my setting if a child I care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.