



Freeland Pre-school

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Freeland Pre-school is a Registered Charity [No: 101

COVID-19

Policy statement

These guidelines are primarily based on Public Health England and Department for Education guidance for educational settings. The guidelines are intended to help practitioners in implementing precautionary measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 disease in the setting.

Safeguarding:

If pre-school has to close because of another lockdown or a positive COVID-19 result, the manager/key person will keep in touch with parents/carers to ensure that the children are safe and well. Children will be supported at home with their learning and development (as set out in the EYFS) through Tapestry. If children are using apps or websites for home learning, parents will be reminded to check that they are safe and age appropriate for their child.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19:

The DfE guidance on protective measures outlines steps providers can take to deal with direct transmission (e.g. via coughing and sneezing) and indirect transmission (e.g. through touching contaminated surfaces).

The key steps the government says providers should take to reduce the risk of transmitting an infection are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

DfE guidance, updated in line with Step 4 of lockdown easing, states that: "You should put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This should include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day) with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

PHE guidance on COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home additionally

states that: "As a minimum, frequently touched surfaces should be wiped down twice a day, and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. Cleaning should be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens".

Keep the setting well-ventilated:

The Actions for Early Years guidance states that good ventilation can be achieved by a variety of measures, including:

- mechanical ventilation systems: these should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance (if possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if not, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply).
- natural ventilation: opening windows, when it is safe to do so. In colder weather, windows should be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and periodically opened more fully when it is safe to do so to purge the air in the space.

The guidance also states that to balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature, the following measures should also be used as appropriate:

- Opening high level windows in preference to low level to reduce draughts
- Increasing the ventilation while spaces are unoccupied
- Re-arranging furniture where possible to avoid direct draughts

It adds that "Heating should be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained, particularly in occupied spaces."

If a child has a temperature following a routine immunisation, they can attend the setting, if there is no reason to suspect they have contracted Covid-19.

DfE guidance states that: "Vaccines may cause a mild fever in children. This is a common and expected reaction, and isolation is not required unless coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected.

Parents and carers should monitor side effects from a vaccination or teething, and if they are concerned about their child's health, they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111. If COVID-19 is suspected the child should start isolating and get tested."

Lateral flow tests

DfE guidance states: "Early years staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed."

Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case in all education and childcare sectors

From Monday 16 August 2021 unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children and young people until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

DfE have updated the frequently asked questions on changes to contact tracing of close contacts and self-isolation. These can all be found on the document sharing platforms for [primary and early years](#), [secondary schools, further education and higher education](#) and [children's social care](#).

The definition of a close contact has been clarified in the guidance as:

- Anyone who lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation
- within 1 metre skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
- been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact or added up together over 1 day)
- travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

Displaying symptoms

The DfE states that "If anyone in your setting develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a child is awaiting collection, appropriate PPE should be used if close contact is necessary.

Further information on this can be found in the use of PPE guidance. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.”

The guidance states that “from 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply”:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

DfE guidance states that: “Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus (COVID-19). They should not come into the setting if they have symptoms or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example they are required to quarantine or have a positive test).”

If a child or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus:

DfE guidance states that staff and children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 and to confirm the result. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive rapid lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the rapid lateral flow test and they can return to the setting, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. Those with a negative rapid lateral flow test result can also continue to attend the setting.

If the PCR test is positive, the individual should continue isolating in accordance with general government guidance.

Pre-school closure and fees:

In the event of closure, due to COVID-19, parents who pay for their children's sessions will be offered a refund. Staff members will be paid at the normal rate. Parents will not be refunded for sessions if their child is self-isolating.

Families and staff who travel abroad:

If families choose to go abroad please follow the latest guidelines online

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

This policy statement should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents:

- Safeguarding policy
- Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies
- Health and safety general standards
- Equipment and resources policy

Additional document to reference:

- Risk Assessment COVID-19 Document

This is an evolving situation and consequently this policy will be updated when necessary to keep in line with the guidance published by the government.

References:

Department for Education (updated 05/03/21) Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Public Health England (updated 15/02/21) COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Department of Health and Social Care (updated 27/02/21) Coronavirus (COVID-19): getting tested

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Department of Health and Social Care (updated 11/01/21) Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>

Competitions and Market Authority (28/7/20) Nursey and early years sector: COVID-19 restrictions and consumer law advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nursery-and-early-years-sector-covid-19-restrictions-and-consumer-law/nursery-and-early-years-sector-covid-19-restrictions-and-consumer-law-advice>

Early Years Alliance - Essential Policies & Procedures for the EYFS. COVID-19 (update July 2020)

Department of Education (updated 01/03/21) Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care

Department of Education (February 2021) What to do if a child or adult is displaying symptoms, or is a confirmed case, of coronavirus (COVID-19) in an early years setting
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958657/What_to_do_if_a_child_or_adult_is_displaying_symptoms_or_is_a_confirmed_case_of_coronavirus_COVI.pdf