



## **Pandemic Flu Policy**

Is there a serious risk of flu pandemic, and what impact could it have?

Experts advise that a further flu pandemic is inevitable, but cannot say when it will happen. When it happens, we expect it to spread rapidly to all areas of the UK and have a significant impact. Depending on the severity of the pandemic, 25%-50% of the population may become ill at some stage during one or more waves, each lasting 3-4 months.

Settings and schools are potentially different from other bodies. Children are highly efficient 'spreaders' of respiratory infections, both among themselves and to adults in their families and to staff within settings. There is some evidence that such infections spread less among children in holiday periods than in term time. So closing schools for a period of time might significantly reduce the number of children infected.

Managers and trustees will make the final decision on closing the setting, this will be due to the amount of children off with flu or due to the number of staff absent through illness.

If the setting needs to close staff will be expected to come into work unless they are ill, caring for dependants, or authorised to work elsewhere.

- The setting may close following government advice or due to staff illness
- Make sure we have up to date information where we can contact you if your child is taken ill while in the setting.
- Children will be kept separate from well children in the setting while waiting to be collected and minimise their contact with staff.
- Encourage staff and children to catch sneezes and coughs in a tissue
- We will minimise the spread of infection by hand washing regularly, disposing of tissues promptly, encouraging children to wipe their own noses and throwing tissues away and then washing their hands. This procedure will be followed by staff and children.
- Staff showing symptoms will go home and not return until symptoms have gone and they are fully recovered.
- Any person given the antiviral along with showing symptoms will remain away from the setting for 7-10 days. After finishing the medication prescribed by the GP check all symptoms have gone and the child or staff can then return to the setting. Trustees and the manager will decide if the child or staff member can return to the setting after the 7-10 days each case will be treated separately as each case is individual, complications can occur and these need to be taken in to account.

## **Preventative and Hygiene**

Staff and children will wash hands frequently with soap and with running water hands will be dried on paper towels and disposed of into the bin.

Staff, children and visitors will wash hands before snack time the table wiped between each child at the snack table and the table cleaned before lunch time with anti bacterial spray. Children will place used cups and plates into the bowl provided for washing with hot soapy water by staff and children together. Items will be dried using a clean tea towel and then placed in the wash bin.

If children attempt to open packets of food in their lunch boxes these may have been placed in the child's mouth staff will wear gloves to open packets or encourage the child to do it for themselves with guidance from staff. This is due to saliva being present on the item this is good practice that staff follow on a day to day basis and not due to pandemic flu.

Toys will be cleaned daily using Milton sterilising solution this is toys that have been out and played with that day..

Musical instruments and toys that require being put into mouths will be removed from the room while a flu pandemic is about.

Door handles, keyboards, children`s work storage trays will be cleaned daily along with the general cleaning of the room to promote good hygiene practice within the setting.

Further information is available from

The flu information hotline 0800 1 513513

NHS Direct 0845 4647

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu](http://www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu)

Policy adopted October 2019

signed

Company Director

Company Secretary