

## Sickness, Illness and Injury

At **Little Pearls Nursery** we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment to rest, relax and recuperate. An average nursery day is busy and active for children while they learn and socialise with other children and adults. We reserve the right to refuse admission to any child who we believe is not well enough to cope with the nursery day. This decision is centred around the child's best interests will be made by the Manager or senior staff member on duty and is non-negotiable.

There will still be a charge of any child who is off sick as the nursery staff will already be on site. This may be reviewed in the case of a long-term sickness.

### **Our procedures**

To take appropriate action when children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection, we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill, that is not an infection disease, during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible. If the child has an infectious disease we follow the same protocol but in an isolated area where we can eliminate the risk of spread, the child or staff will never be in a location where lone working would need to take place.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery. We use the 'Managing infectious diseases: A to Z' to determine exclusion periods.  
The link to the official document is-  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. Different exclusion period's apply for different illnesses – we can advise what the exclusion periods are on a case-by-case basis. We inform all parents via signs and anews feed post on our family app if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- If an illness responds to a pain relief or anti inflammatory medication a child shouldn't be in nursery that day, if a child comes to nursery with medication within their system we do need to know on drop off. Once the medication

wears off their symptoms may re-arise so this may result in us sending the child home.

- The nursery areas and resources are cleaned frequently to uphold a good level of hygiene. As soon as we become aware of an infection/ illness which has affected multiple children/ staff we initiate a deep clean of the nursery.
- In the unlikely case of food poisoning, we notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course if they haven't been on the medicine before due to the risk of allergic reaction. Children can only come back to nursery for the remainder of the antibiotics if this has been deemed as suitable by a doctor. This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting.
- All parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could treat the lice, and inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
- Children who have had a serious injury and are healing (e.g. broken leg) will only be allowed in the nursery if the medical professionals dealing with their case feel it is safe to do so. If, at any time, the nursery staff feel the rigour of the day is putting the child at risk of hurting themselves more the child will be sent home.
- We advise our team members to open windows for 10 minutes each hour to help with ventilation throughout the building.
- If we have suspected measles in the setting its important we don't confirm this to parents until we've had confirmation from Public Health.

## **Diarrhoea and vomiting**

- Guidance from Public health explains hand gel does not kill diarrhoea, handwashing is inputted throughout the day for the children. We are aware as a setting that Norovirus can live on surfaces for up to 2 weeks so continue high cleaning protocols until we are 2 weeks clear of a stomach bug.
- If we have a few cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the nursery messy play is to be avoided until the cases are over.
- If as a nursery we have an outbreak of Diarrhoea and/or vomiting then we will have a deep clean throughout the entire setting, this includes the removal of all soft furnishings which will be washed at 90 degrees, a reduced amount of resources so we can deep clean at the end of the day and more time outside.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

In the case that the child comes down with a serious illness or has a serious accident whilst at nursery, the following procedures will apply. The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness/ injury is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick/ injured child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication, and the child's comforter
- Always remain calm. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident
- Ofsted must be notified of any serious incident within 14 days or as soon as a reasonable possible.

Please find our exclusion periods below:

### **Exclusion Periods**

<b>Illness</b>	<b>Minimum Exclusion Period</b>
High temperature over 38	24 hours
Vomiting	48 hours after symptoms have ceased
Diarrhoea	48 hours after symptoms have ceased
Conjunctivitis	No exclusion, If child is otherwise clinically well
Chickenpox	5 days from onset of rash
Impetigo	Once antibiotic or cream have been used for 48 hours or until lesions are crusted over or healed
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Scabies	24 hours after treatment
Head lice	No exclusion period
Slapped cheek (fifth disease)	Until child is clinically well, rash is not a sign of infectivity

Hand, foot and mouth (coxsackie virus)	3 day exclusion from onset of confirmed spots or until the spots have healed over
Ear infections	No exclusion necessary
Covid-19	3 days after the day the test was taken

Please note- these exclusion periods are not only to protect from cross-infection. Children who are unwell are likely to develop secondary infections if their immune system has not had sufficient time to recover. Children's ability to cope with group situations is greatly reduced when they are poorly, therefore our exclusion periods are aimed at ensuring the children are strong enough, emotionally, and physically, to cope with the nursery day.

These exclusions also apply to all staff.

We will contact public health if we need help managing an outbreak, severe illness or hospitalisation of a sever disease or death, confirmed flu or chicken pox while also having Scarlett fever in same setting. If one of these categories makes its ay to the press and hasn't already been make aware to Public Health we must ensure Public Health are made aware.

Public Health contact details:

Triage outbreaks: Call- 0300 303 8162 Email- [swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:swhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk)