

**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

**3.3 Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Policy statement**

We aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health.

### **What is a coronavirus?**

Coronaviruses are a common type of virus. They typically cause fever and a cough, which may progress to more severe pneumonia, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties in some people, according to Public Health England (PHE).

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild and most of those who have died in Wuhan appear to have had pre-existing health conditions.

Because little is known about this new strain of the virus, it is not clear how it is spread, however, similar viruses tend to be spread by coughs and sneezes – so the way the infection gains entry to the body is the same as the way it exits and spreads to others.

It is also possible that the virus may be spread by touching a surface or object that has been coughed or sneezed on by someone with the virus – such as by touching a doorknob or shaking hands with someone and then touching your face.

There is currently no specific cure for the new coronavirus so treatment is aimed at relieving the symptoms.

It is important to remember that the risk of getting the illness is still unlikely.

The chief medical officers for the UK have been preparing the UK and have already put in place robust infection control measures to respond immediately. The NHS is well-prepared and used to managing infections and are already working to quickly identify any contacts of the patients confirmed to have the virus, to prevent further spread

### **What are the symptoms?**

The NHS advises that symptoms of the coronavirus usually include:

* feeling tired
* difficulty breathing
* a high temperature
* a cough

If a child is showing any sign of these symptoms parent's will be called to collect the child.

### **What should I do if someone at Howden Pre-School needs to self-isolate?**

**If a member of staff or child has recently returned from one of the following areas they must** [**follow government advice**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19) **and self-isolate (remain at home) for 14 days and contact NHS 111, they will not be allowed to return to the setting for 14 days– even if they do not have any symptoms:**

* Wuhan city and Hubei Province, China
* Iran
* Daegu or Cheongdo, Republic of Korea
* Italy

**Children must not be dropped off at your setting by anyone who has recently returned from one of these areas – they must make arrangements for another family member or friend to drop them off instead.**

Those who have recently returned from one of the areas below do not necessarily need to take any special measures, but if they develop even mild symptoms they must self-isolate and contact NHS 111:

* Cambodia
* China – except the areas listed in above
* Hong Kong
* Japan
* Laos
* Macau
* Malaysia
* Myanmar
* Republic of Korea – except the areas listed above
* Singapore
* Taiwan
* Thailand
* Vietnam

All other children and staff can attend our settings as usual – unless they have been advised otherwise by Public Health officials.

If you know that a child or member of staff has recently returned from one of these areas yet is not following government advice, you should request that they not attend the provision until the required self-isolation period is over.

Once the isolation period is over and the staff member or child affected has no symptoms, they must speak with their GP about getting clearance to return to your setting. Written evidence of this clearance will be provided to Howden Pre-School before staff and children can return.

**What do we do to reduce the risk of infection?**

**Rigorous infection control measures**

Parents can also be confident that our settings already have rigorous infection control measures in place, including:

* good basic hygiene practices, including regular hand-washing (practitioners and children)
* staff cover any existing wounds or lesions with waterproof dressings
* personal protective equipment (PPE) such as aprons and gloves are used as needed
* there are procedures in place for cleaning equipment and the environment
* spillages of blood and other bodily fluids are cleaned immediately
* there are procedures for the safe disposal of waste
* awareness  of infection control guidance, including the management of infections

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands.

We remind children to wash their hands:

* after outside breaks
* before meals and snack times
* after using the toilet
* when they arrive at your setting
* at the end of the day before they go home

### **Do I need to close my setting?**

Please be reassured, that as stated by the Health Secretary, where someone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare setting in most cases, closure of the setting will be unnecessary but this will be a local decision based on various factors including professional advice.

**Key information sources**

[COVID 19 - Guidance for Educational Setttings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19) (DfE)

[COVID 19 - Common Questions - Advice for You and Your Family](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/) (NHS)

[Coronarvirus: latest information and advice](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public) (Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England)

[Coronavirus (2019-cCoV)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/) (NHS)

[Coronavirus FAQs](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/) (NHS)

[Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) - what you need to know](https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/) (Public Health England)

**Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

* If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – our manager/assistant manager call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, shoes and socks.
Parents will be called and asked to collect their child.
* The child's temperature is taken using an infrared thermometer, kept in the first aid cupboard.
* If the child’s temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them Calpol in extreem circumstances, after first obtaining written consent from the parent. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, . Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
* In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
* Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.

*Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’*

* If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
* When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and act[s] on any advice given.

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