



Northern Lights Pre-School & Out of School Club

"Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people".

Responding to Children who are ill/infectious

At the Northern Lights Pre-School, we are committed to ensuring that we take all necessary measures to prevent the spread of infections. We ensure that children have had their immunisations and maintain a high standard of personal hygiene and practise, particularly hand washing and maintaining a clean environment. Staff need to refer to guidance on the infection control poster which is located on display in the office.

Illness

If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the manager or a member of staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water but kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using a digital thermometer.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child will be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed. Depending on parental consent.
- Parents can be asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to pre-school; the pre-school can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they have any infection and to inform the pre-school so that the pre-school can alert other parents and to monitor any other individuals who may become unwell on the premises.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents can be asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After sickness or diarrhoea parents are required to keep children at home for 48 hours.
- If a child or an adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware of or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

The Pre-school has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times:

- **Coronavirus/Covid-19** – Follow the latest government guidelines 'Responding to children who are ill/infectious' procedure
- **Conjunctivitis** – need to stay away from the Pre-School for 24 hours after the first dose of eye drops
- **Head lice** – are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep their child away until the infestation has cleared. On identifying cases of head lice parents will be contacted or informed and asked to treat their child as soon as is possible and the rest of the family if they are found to have head lice.
- **Chickenpox** – children need to stay away from the pre-school until spots have scabbed over. They need to stay home for at least 5 days from the onset of rash.
- **Measles** – children need to stay away from the pre-school until 5 days from onset of rash.
- **Impetigo** – children need to stay away from the pre-school until lesions are crusted or healed.
- **German measles** – children need to stay away from the pre-school until 5 days from onset of rash.
- **Scabies** – children need to stay away from the pre-school until treated.
- **Sickness and diarrhoea** – children need to stay away from the pre-school for 48 hours after the symptoms have gone/after the last episode.

Covid-19

Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend preschool for any reason. If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to sense of smell/taste, they must be sent home immediately.

The child should be moved to the office and be isolated behind a closed door with the room well ventilated. One member of staff should supervise the child at all times ensuring P.P.E is worn.

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or their life is at risk. Parents will be reminded not to visit the G.P, pharmacy or hospital.

The Pre-School staff are aware that they can get further guidance and support from [**Health Protection Duty Room**](#)
Phone: [**0113 386 0300**](tel:01133860300)

Please note: This policy remains subject to change as the situation develops. Please follow the latest government guidelines.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is a common mild childhood illness which is caused by a moderately contagious virus. It typically affects children under the age of five, but adults may also become infected.

Initial symptoms of hand, foot, and mouth disease include fever, poor appetite, general discomfort, and often a sore throat. Approximately two days after onset of initial symptoms, painful sores develop in the mouth. They begin as small, red spots that often become ulcers. A non-itchy rash with flat or raised red spots with a blister-like appearance develops one to two days after initial symptoms begin. The rash typically appears on the hands and feet. Most people recover without complications within seven to ten days. If your child becomes ill with hand, foot, and mouth disease, keep him or her at home to reduce the spread of the virus for at least 5 days.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is spread from person-to-person by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, saliva, fluid from blisters, or stool of the infected person. Surfaces contaminated with these substances may also become a source of infection, so thorough cleaning of surfaces can reduce the spread of hand, foot, and mouth disease. Additionally, frequent and thorough handwashing helps to prevent the spread of infection. Wash your hands and your child's hands after diapering or assisting with toileting and before eating or preparing food.

Last reviewed: April 2022