Version: 1

COVID 19 - Pandemic Policy

# Scope

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. All staff working and visiting Reepham Pre-School have the expectation to adhere to this policy and supporting procedures.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness or worse, death.

# Introduction

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow) whilst adhering to Reepham Pre-School COVID Risk Assessments with government Public Health Guidance and recommendations which are ever developing.

At this current time, there are developing vaccines being distributed to the population within our locality based on criterion. The World Health Organisation (WHO) will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available. Further information regarding Covid-19 and the current guidance upon reading this policy or supporting procedures can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

# Definitions

Personal protective Equipment – Equipment worn by an individual which aims to protect them against cross infection from another individual or environmental exposure. This is usually in the form of gloves, mask, apron, face visor etc.

# Roles & Responsibilities

Every member of staff is expected to adhere to this policy and associated procedures. Lack of adherence could potentially lead to the Health and Safety of the individual, colleagues, children and families being put at unnecessary risk.

Every member of the Pre-School Management team including the Pre-School manager have the additional responsibility to ensure the staff adhere to this policy and via Illness and Exclusion Policy and Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings. They will also ensure that the policy and associated procedures are disseminated to practitioners as soon as practicably possible upon guidance changes.

If staff are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID or are in close contact with a family member who has tested positive for COVID then they will test daily for 1 week.

Children who have a temperature will be asked to stay at home until well again.

# The Process

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the workplaces and lives of many over the last few years. As a ‘Covid Secure’ organisation, it is an expectation that Reepham Pre-School management committee, staff, children and parents and their visitors uphold the government expectations for Infection control including social distancing, the wearing of masks and quarantine due to symptoms (where applicable), optimal hand hygiene, frequent surface decontamination and ventilation at all times to reduce the spread.

The associated procedures to this policy detail the step by processes which need to be abided by for the area of work/stay/visit the individual is undertaking.

World Health Organisation (2020) *Coronavirus* [Online]. Available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1> [Accessed: 23/12/2020].

World Health Organisation (2020) *Infection prevention and control during health care when coronavirus disease (‎COVID-19)‎ is suspected or confirmed* [Online]. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC-2020.4> [Accessed: 23/12/2020].

Public Health England (2020) *New recommendations for primary and community health care providers in England* [Online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/new-recommendations-for-primary-and-community-health-care-providers-in-england> [Accessed: 23/12/2020].

This policy has been adopted by Reepham Pre-School

Signed on behalf of the setting by:

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 …………………………………………………………………Manager

Date:………………………………………….

Review *Date:*………………………………...