Following the new guidance published by the GOV with regards COVID we have reviewed our risk assessments and these are the changes being put in place, all other procedures will remain.

\*Throughout all procedures for COVID, we will follow guidance from Public Health and our ‘Outbreak Management Plan’ when necessary, such as; an outbreak in the local area or provision. This can be viewed on request and/or on our website.

**Social distancing and Mixing**

**Mixing groups:**

It is no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep groups apart as much as possible.

We will merge once again into one group at the capacity we are registered for however, these will be continually reviewed our own risk assessments and follow guidance issued by GOV. and the Local Authorities.

**Using more than one setting:**

This restriction has been removed from the guidance. However, we ask that parents inform us of other childcare settings being attended.

**Social distancing:**

Social distancing measures have now ended in the workplace between staff/volunteers. We will maintain at reasonable distance from each other, which including staff and parents where possible, but not from children as this has never been the case.

Visitors will be asked to keep at a reasonable distance and we will provide face coverings and can be used if staff or visitors feel it appropriate to do so.

We will maintain at reasonable distance from each other, including staff and parents where possible, but not from children as this has never been the case.

**Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer be recommended for staff and visitors in corridors or communal areas.

We will provide a face covering if a visitor or staff member feels they would like to at times they feel appropriate such as a meeting.

\*You can find more information on face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own.

**In circumstances where face coverings are recommended**

If we have an outbreak in the setting, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas by staff and visitors (unless exempt).

In circumstances where we are required to wear face coverings such as; advised by Public health or a possible case during the session, transparent face coverings (provided for staff), which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn.

**Staff and children who are clinically extremely vulnerable**

Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are advised, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else.

Guidance states; It is no longer necessary for the government to instruct people to work from home.

All children who are CEV should attend their setting unless they are one of the very small number of children under pediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

It is important that everyone adheres to this guidance, but we will advise CEV people to think particularly carefully about the additional precautions they can continue to take.

\*Further information can be found in the guidance on protecting people who are CEV from COVID-19.

**Safeguarding and designated safeguarding leads**

There will be no change to local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, which remain the responsibility of the 3 safeguarding partners:

local authorities

clinical commissioning groups

chief officers of police

1. The Manager and Safeguarding Lead will ensure they are available during an outbreak and can be contacted by the families that attend the setting.

2. Maintain contact with families under Safeguarding measures.

3. Keep in regular contact with all families.

4. We will continue to have regard to any statutory safeguarding guidance that applies to them, including: Keeping children safe in education, Working together to safeguard children, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

**Children and staff travelling from abroad**

All children and staff travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in \*red, amber and green list rules for entering England.

Parents and carers should bear in mind the impact on their child’s learning and development which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

We will require parents to notify us any holiday dates and the destination.

**Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

* **If a child or staff member tests positive:**

The provision does not need to close, unless advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The child or staff member will be asked to take a PCR test and remain hoe until there is a result.

Attending an early year setting, with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19 does not necessarily mean a person will be identified as a close contact. This will be advised by Test & Trace.

* **Self- isolation:**

Following changes to self-isolation introduced on 16 August 20201, people who have been fully vaccinated (i.e. those who have had two doses of an approved vaccine, with the second dose being received at least two weeks beforehand)

Those aged under 18, are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

They are advised to take a PCR test at their earliest convenience.

Close contacts of confirmed positive cases who are not fully vaccinated, must continue to self-isolate for ten days if contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

* **Self-Isolation for under 5’s:**

Children under 5 will only be advised by Test & Trace to get a PCR test if the close contact is within their household. We can refuse a child to attend the provision if we feel it’s necessary for the safety of everyone in the provision. However, this will be reviewed very carefully before a decision is made.

The considerations would be:

Is the person dropping of and collecting clear of any symptoms? Have they had a PCR test if advised to do so by Track and Trace?

Has the child been advised to have a PCR test by Track and Trace? If this is the case, we will ask that the child does not return until there is a result received.

* **Positive cases in other settings attended**

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts.

Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak.

If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

**Control measures**

We will continue to:

* Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue as regular practice with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

We will encourage children to wash hands regularly and before and after particular activities/routines such as; snack time and using the bathroom.

Respiratory hygiene, the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important and we will continue with this practice and role modelling for children.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when necessary, such as; a possible case in the setting and child is waiting for collection.

* Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.

We continue to have in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. (See Hygiene procedures)

* Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

When the setting is in operation, it is important that we ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable environment is maintained. We will continue to do this by keeping the door open and/or the windows.

We will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

* Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We will work closely with the Village Hall committee and their procedures and risk assessments.

**Managing possible and confirmed cases**

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

They must not come into the setting if they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

We will notify OFSTED.

If anyone in your setting develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

If a child is awaiting collection, appropriate PPE will be used if close contact is necessary for example; it’s a child who is unwell.

Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.

**Managing a possible outbreak**

Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission.

If we have several confirmed cases within 14 days, we may have an outbreak.

In the event of an possible outbreak, we will call the dedicated (1) advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of your outbreak management plan.

**Asymptomatic testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings. That is why, staff will continue with Lateral testing twice a week until reviewed and advised otherwise and we urge parents to also lateral test at home.

Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme.

**Confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests**

Staff and children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

While awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive rapid lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the rapid lateral flow test and they can return to the setting, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

**Admitting children back to the setting**

If a child continues to have symptoms or are still generally unwell, they must not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. The Manager can take the decision as to whether a child can return, as with all illnesses where a child has been absent.

**Staying in touch with parents or carers whose child is at home**

All children should be able to attend as normal, with the exception of those children who may still have to self-isolate.

If a child is in isolation, we will continue to support the parents and child through Tapestry, phone and emails. We will support parents and carers to provide a positive learning environment at home.

We will work with professionals associated with vulnerable children and their families.