# Illness and Medication

Our policy is that any child may attend the nursery if suffering an ailment as long as they are neither contagious nor distressed. We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. However, the decision of the Manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group. If the manager suspects an infection parents may be requested to consult a doctor before returning the child to the Nursery.

**Exclusions include**

\* Infectious diseases such as Chicken pox or German measles (Approx. 5 days)

\* High temperature (no limit)

\* Sickness and diarrhea (48 hours must elapse)

* Discharge from eyes (no exclusion but requires consultation with a Doctor/treatment given)

Notifiable diseases must be reported to OFSTED and the Health protection agency.

**Should a child become ill whilst at nursery**

The Manager will contact the parent or an emergency contact. While awaiting the arrival of parents, the staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. Should the Manager consider the illness / situation to warrant immediate medical attention, the emergency services will be contacted to take the child directly to Hospital and the parent notified accordingly.

**HIV**

HIV is caused by becoming infected with a virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The virus soon dies outside of the human body, it is not contagious and cannot be passed like colds or flu by ordinary social contact. The term AIDS or Acute Immunodeficiency Syndrome is used when the diseases has progressed and the child has one or more infections or conditions. it is possible to contort HIV with the absence of secondary infection.

HIV is transmitted by the following body fluids

* Breast milk
* blood
* semen
* Vaginal and cervical secretions

Transmission is highly unlikely to occur in normal childcare situations however parents are requested to inform the manager in cases of HIV so that correct procedures may be followed in the event of accident or illness. Confidentiality will be upheld at all times. Good hygiene practices should be adhered to at all times with regard to blood, vomit, diarrhoea and urine

**Medication**

Children may attend the nursery whilst receiving medication if;

\* The child has a long term medical condition and requires on going treatment

\* The child is well and not distressed but needs to complete course of treatment

#### \* The child is no longer infectious

Staff can administer prescribed medicine (such as antibiotics) under direct authority from parents with full written and signed permission on our medicine sheet. The child must have had a least one dose or course of the medication before administration at nursery

Medicine sheets record the name of the child, the name of the medication, the date, dose, and time given, who administered the medication and parents signature to authorise the giving of medication. Parents must sign again at the end of the session/day to confirm that medication was administered. All medicine sheets are stored in the office. Parents are required to sign emergency medical treatment form on admission to the nursery, (part of our registration form).

Medication will be clearly labelled and kept in either the fridge or in the case of long-term medicines the cupboard in the baby room.

Medicine Form

Date:

Childs name:

Name of medicine:

Dose to be given

When to be given

Time of last dose (before arriving at nursery)

Other instructions:

Parents authorisation to administer medicine:

Time given:

Dose Given:

Parental confirmation of medicine and dose given:

Sign, print, date

**Calpol**

Nursery staff will make every effort to contact parents if a child becomes ill in our care, but we are only able to administer medicines given to us by parents. In the event of child having a dangerously high temperature or needing pain relief we will administer Calpol under the parent’s authority if it is supplied by the parent and clearly named. **We do not keep Calpol on the nursery premises.**

Non-prescription pain relief medicines will only be administered after the following precautions have been taken;

\* All other methods for cooling the child down have been used

* Parents have been notified and the time delay for collection would put the child at greater risk or discomfort
* Approval has been granted by the manager or acting deputy.

Other non-prescribed medicines such as ‘bonjela’ for teething may be administered a nursery with full signed permission on a medicine form and under the condition that the treatment has been administered at home at least once before.

**Long term medicine forms/care plans**

These are available for long term illnesses such as asthma. The forms include directions and blanket consent for administration. These care plans must be reviewed annually and kept with the medication, e.g inhaler in the medicine cupboard in the baby room. The medicine must be clearly labelled with the child’s name.

Parents must sign in the event of the medication being given.

**Further guidance**

A comprehensive list of guidance including a list of contagious diseases and exclusion periods is available from Health Protection Authority

“Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings”

**Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Mainstream childcare and education settings are expected to manage COVID-19 in line with other Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI). Management of cases of COVID-19 has now been incorporated into health protection guidance for managing cases of an infectious disease: [health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance.](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fhealth-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities&data=05%7C01%7CJZGillard%40somerset.gov.uk%7C8c8d6ef4cbbc41aab5aa08da2cf5873e%7Cb524f606f77a4aa28da2fe70343b0cce%7C0%7C0%7C637871730282471822%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=U4x5BT3quJjTvcrhigXYyM92wsRjxtJswPwO4nIsCWg%3D&reserved=0)

You will find the latest information on infectious diseases and management of outbreaks on appropriate pages of the Support services for Education website and also in the ‘Health Protection and Improvement’ section of the weekly school bulletin.

**Coronavirus symptoms**

**• a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

**• a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

These are the main symptoms of coronavirus.

**Changes to measures and guidance for managing COVID-19 in education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April 2022**

• No expectation for pupils or staff in education settings to routinely test themselves for COVID-19.

• Testing is no longer free, instead you can purchase testing kits

• Staff with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days.

• Children aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days.

• Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to nursery when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

• Nurseries are expected to maintain some mitigating measures eg ventilation and access to hand sanitiser/washing facilities.

We will contact our [UKHSA HPT](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fhealth-protection-team&data=05%7C01%7CJZGillard%40somerset.gov.uk%7C8c8d6ef4cbbc41aab5aa08da2cf5873e%7Cb524f606f77a4aa28da2fe70343b0cce%7C0%7C0%7C637871730282471822%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pmCTIXuFOjd0994xCNAOHgFnQYpCBBq3fuwbhASgTBQ%3D&reserved=0) if there are:

* A higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection.
* Evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example, if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital.
* More than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chickenpox and scarlet fever.

**SCCPH** are available at [SCCPHincidentroom@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SCCPHincidentroom@somerset.gov.uk) for specific enquiries about managing ARI and other infectious diseases in your setting.

**Should the nursery need to close at short notice:**

We will endeavor to stay open in all circumstances as long as there is no compromise to safety. If we feel that safety is compromised the nursery may take the decision to close completely**.** Parents will be contacted via email or telephone.

Revised Nov 2024