



Wee Mack's Covid Policy Update

April 2022

LFD Testing Update

- From 18th April 2022, staff are no longer required to do mandatory testing.

Close contacts

- Close contacts in the setting that are fully vaccinated (not identified by T&T but by the setting) to LFD for 7 days and continue to work unless they develop symptoms or provide a positive test result on the LFD.
- Close contact children under 5 do not need to isolate or take daily tests, but it is advised that they receive a PCR test to confirm they are not positive for covid-19 before attending the setting.
- Definitions of close contacts (as defined by NHS Inform Scotland):
 - Face-to-face contact less than 1 meter apart for any length of time
 - Been within 2 meters of contact for more than 15 minutes at a time
 - Normal contacts within ELC settings are generally not considered close contacts unless index cases identify exceptional circumstances, such as having shared a car.
 - If following a positive case the setting feels that a staff member has been in close contact but have not been identified as one by T&T, they can contact their Health Protection Team.

Self-Isolating

- If any staff or service users display any of the core symptoms (fever; no sense of smell or taste; a new, constant cough) they will be advised to attend for a PCR straight away.
- If any staff or service users are identified as close contacts, but display no symptoms and are at least double vaccinated, they will LFD for 7 days and continue to attend the setting as normal.
- If any staff or service users are identified as close contacts, and develop symptoms or test positive on an LFD during this 7 day window, they will go for a PCR test straight away and begin isolating.

Positive LFD or PCR Results

- Must isolate for 10 days; however, if the person tests negative on two consecutive LFD tests (taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test no earlier than day 6) they may leave isolation if they have no fever after their second negative test. This applies to cases aged under 5.
- PCR tests are no longer required to confirm a positive LFD result. Instead, anyone with a positive LFD should report the result online as soon as the test is done and isolate. They



should only attend for a PCR if they have or develop symptoms.

- Children under 5 should be encouraged, but are not required to, take a one-off LFD test before ending isolation. If any contact develops symptoms at any point during or after the post-contact period, they should take a PCR test.

Calpol and Other Infant Paracetamol

Wee Mack's will not admit a child into the setting with a high temperature. We will request a PCR if the child has a high temperature, and they are not permitted to return to the setting until 24 hours has passed. Staff cannot admit a child into the setting if they have been given Calpol or any other fever-reducing medication less than 24 hours prior to attending. Wee Mack's reserves the right to turn a child away who has been given Calpol less than 24 hours prior to attending nursery. For children who are teething and this is the reason for supplying Calpol, we are happy to accept teething gel or teething rings (which would be kept separate for your child). We seek to ensure all of our children and staff are safe and putting measures such as these in place reduces the chance of infectious illnesses being masked by a fever-reducing medication and passed on.

If a child develops a high temperature at nursery, we will ask for you to collect them and a 24 hour exclusion period will apply.

Closure of the Setting

- Wee Mack's Nursery will strive to continue to provide the care for registered children. In the event of a covid-19 outbreak, we will refer to our contingency plan and emergency staffing plan in the first instance and refer to our list of key workers in families.
- In the event of closure due to covid-19, the manager of the setting will contact the Care Inspectorate to advise them of their operational status.

Ventilation

- We will maintain ventilation within the setting by opening doors and windows during periods where children are outdoors, or open a small amount so as not to make the environment too cold in the winter.

Good Hygiene Practice

- Staff will continue to ensure touched objects or surfaces, food prep and dining areas are cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Staff will ensure children wash their hands upon arrival to the setting, prior to and after



any meal times, and that their hands are washed after any nappy changes or toilet visits.

- Antibacterial hand-gel is not recommended for children when warm water and soap is available. We will use antibacterial gel only as a last resort.

Drop off & Pick Up

- Parents/carers who are self isolating while they wait for the results of their PCR test, or who have received a positive PCR test should not leave the house to bring children to or from settings. They should make arrangements for someone else to do this on their behalf or, if that's not possible, children should stay home with parents/carers.

Visits to the setting

- We ask that prior to a settling in session or visit to the setting that parents/carers take an LFD test.
- Virtual visits will be offered in the first instance in the form of a video. In some cases, the first settling in session to discuss the care plan may be completed online or via the telephone. Parents will be allowed to enter the setting but only for a limited amount of time and this will be discussed on a personal basis.



Wee Mack's Covid-19 Policy

Revised Sept 2021

At Wee Mack's we are committed to reducing the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks by following the guidelines recommended by the Scottish Government.

Following new advice released by the Scottish Government on the 23rd August 2021 and the UK Government on the 17th August, we have revised our Covid-19 policy to reflect the latest changes to guidelines. We ask that all staff and users adhere to these guidelines.

Cleaning Practices

- Frequent cleaning is being practiced throughout the nursery with nursery staff ensuring that touchpoints, such as chairs, toys and door handles, are cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Cleaners attend daily in the evening to disinfect and clean the entire nursery including floors, tabletops, bathrooms and more.
- Soft furnishings, such as bedding and soft toys, will be laundered twice weekly. Each child will have their own bedding kept in individual bags, even at Level 0 and below.
- Water and playdough will be used per session and then disposed of prior to any new sessions beginning to reduce the number of children accessing it.
- Soft play equipment is cleaned after each use.
- Surfaces in dining or snack areas will be wiped down and disinfected in between use by each group of children.
- All crockery and equipment used in the provision of meals and snacks for children will be cleaned with general-purpose detergent and dried thoroughly before being stored for re-use.
- Staff will use their own cup/cutlery and ensure these are cleaned straight after use.
- Staff areas will be cleaned daily

Enhanced hand hygiene

- Hand-washing facilities will be available for all children, including soap and warm water, hand dryers for children over the age of 2 and disposable paper.
- Antibacterial hand gel may be used when soap and water is not readily available but never for children under 12 months of age.
- Handwashing facilities will be made available outdoors
- a supply of antibacterial hand gel will be available to parents and staff at the entrance to the setting.
- Staff will ensure enhanced hand hygiene measures are in place including washing their own hands and the hands of all children
- Children will be gently discouraged from touching their face
- Children will be taught to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and shown how to dispose of tissues appropriately.



Sharing of Resources

- Whilst we discourage children bringing in small toys to nursery, we do accept comforters in the form of a dummy, soft toy or muslin/blanket.
- Should a child display covid-19 symptoms, all resources that have been accessed will be removed, cleaned and disinfected prior to any other children accessing them.
- We ask that families launder any soft toys or blankets between sessions where possible.

Ventilation

'In its advice published on 3rd March 2021, the Advisory Sub-Group recommended, that greater emphasis should be placed on ventilation' (*Coronavirus (Covid-19): ELC Services, Scottish Government, August 2021*).

To adhere to this advice, Wee Mack's will

- ensure that windows are open regularly throughout the day to promote natural ventilation.
- ensure that windows are open, but temperature is acceptable, in areas where children are sleeping
- allow children free-flow access to the garden, securing doors open to promote fresh air
- encourage outdoor time frequently throughout the day.

PPE

- Staff will wear appropriate PPE when handling children going to the toilet or during nappy changing times. These include disposable aprons and gloves.
- Staff will wear masks around other adults and where they are unable to distance; however it is not recommended they are worn around the children.

Physical Distancing

- In level 0, we still require staff and parents to distance themselves by at least 1 meter.
- This includes at pick up time and drop off time as well as on lunch breaks and within the rooms.
- Staff do not have to socially distance from children and children do not need to distance from each other.

Staff Training

At induction all staff will be given the opportunity to read and discuss the following:

- Health Protection Scotland guidance,
- The Strategic Framework for Reopening Schools and ELC, and
- The framework document COVID19- a framework for decision making

All staff will be trained to ensure that they are clear and confident in implementing the required public health measures and processes.

Our staff will also have access to:



- resources for the workforce to aid them in supporting children and families who have been affected by bereavement
- training in supporting children who have experienced lockdown as a stressful and even traumatic period

Temperature testing within the nursery

It is no longer recommended to temperature test therefore temperatures will only be checked where children/staff or adults are showing signs of being unwell.

Attendance for those with symptoms of Covid 19

Children and staff are not permitted to attend Wee Mack's Nursery if they present with symptoms of coronavirus as defined by the UK and Scottish Government as:

- A new continuous cough: this means coughing a lot in one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, or if you usually get a cough, this one may be significantly worse than usual.
- A high temperature: this is defined by the NHS as being above 38 degrees Celsius.
- A loss of taste or smell

Anyone displaying one or more of the above symptoms should contact Wee Mack's Nursery to let us know and arrange a PCR test immediately. **You must not attend the setting under any circumstances.** Thereafter, please follow the isolation guidelines set out by the Government which is typically 10 days from when symptoms developed. You may access more information on the Government and NHS website as to the correct isolation procedures to follow.

Wee Mack's requires you to send us confirmation of any positive case to keep on file and as a record of positive cases in the setting.

- In the event of a child developing covid-19 symptoms whilst in the nursery, staff will ensure that the child is taken to a secluded area with ventilation, and distanced from other children until collected.

Attendance for those with no symptoms but who are close contacts

- Current governmental advice is that children under the age of 5 years old and adults who have been double vaccinated, or those exempt from receiving the vaccine due to medical reasons, do not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus.
- This means that even if other staff members and children have been in contact with a person who tested positive, or if they are identified as a 'close contact', they do not need to be sent home or isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.
- We do ask that if someone in your household has tested positive for coronavirus that you do not bring your child in to nursery. Whilst the guidelines state that children under 5 do not have to isolate, we ask that you consider whether it is necessary for your child to attend the setting and if they are able to stay at home please keep them home, just in case they are infectious.



Outbreak

An outbreak is defined as two or more confirmed cases in 14 days, or an increase in the background rate of absence due to suspected or confirmed cases of covid-19 (*Coronavirus (Covid-19): ELC Services*, Scottish Government, August 2021).

If the outbreak is within the staff team

- the manager will look at creating an 'emergency staffing plan'. This will involve looking at how many staff are required for the morning and afternoon. If there are enough remaining staff who are double vaccinated and display no symptoms to meet the adult to child ratios, we will operate as normal.
- If there are not enough staff to safely care for the children, then the manager will contact all families to offer an alternative session or discuss the fee for this session being deducted from next month's invoice. We will aim to operate as usual and may use agency staff members to meet ratios on some occasions. We will report any cases to the Care Inspectorate and refer to any advice given by them.

If the outbreak is amongst the children of the setting

- we will work closely with the relevant authorities including the Care Inspectorate and be advised by them.
- A deep clean will take place including all toys and soft furnishings.
- All parents will be notified of the confirmed cases. Under no circumstances will names be given regarding staff or children affected.
- All staff will book and undertake a PCR test and take regular lateral flow tests prior to their shifts beginning.
- Children under the age of 5 will not have to take a PCR test unless they display symptoms themselves.

Closure

It remains at the discretion of management at Wee Mack's Nursery, in the best interests of the staff and families who attend the setting, as to whether we would have a temporary closure due to staff being asked to get PCR tested prior to returning to the setting, or if there is an outbreak of cases.

- If the nursery is to close, for however long, any sessions that are cancelled in this time will be offered as an additional session, or the fee will be taken from off the following months invoice.
- There is no charge for when the setting is closed in relation to Covid 19. Management will contact parents as soon as closure is decided and notify all parents and staff.



Risk Assessing

Wee Mack's will continue to update the covid-19 risk assessments as updates arise and as and when is required subject to positive or suspected cases arising in the setting. This risk assessment is available for viewing on request.

This Policy is in addition to our Cleaning, Infection Control, Medication and Healthy Eating policies.