



## Wee Mack's Infection Control Policy

April 2022

At Wee Mack's, we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow 'Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings' guidelines produced by Health Protection Scotland.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child



- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.

In addition:

- The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus/ pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action, we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.



**Staff will report any of the following symptoms immediately to the Nursery Manager/Deputy, who will assess the risk:**

- Diarrhoea (this is defined as three or more very loose or liquid bowel movements within 24 hours)
- Blood in faeces
- Vomiting
- Continuing or severe stomach pain
- Any kind of rash
- Flu-like symptoms — a fever (temperature of 38°C or higher) and two or more of the following
  - cough, sore throat, runny nose, limb or joint pain, and headache.
- Unwell appearance (feels hot or looks flushed)

**If your child is displaying any of these symptoms, do not take them into the childcare setting. Call and discuss with our staff.**

**If your child/anyone in your household is showing signs of Covid 19, please follow quarantine procedures for a period of 14 days.**

**We understand it is difficult to keep your child home from nursery, however it is important to be vigilant to prevent outbreaks from happening.**

If any one child develops any of these signs or symptoms whilst in the nursery setting, staff will

- Keep the child safe and away from other children if possible
- Ask the parent / guardian to collect the child and suggest they visit the GP if symptoms continue or
  - get worse
- Take any other action deemed appropriate by the Nursery Manager
- If more than one child is showing symptoms, staff should contact their local GP surgery for advice
- Adults in childcare settings must also report to the Nursery Manager if they themselves feel unwell and follow 'Test and Protect' guidance
- Staff must be aware of vulnerable children or underlying health conditions which may cause increased risk of infection



- Pregnant staff must be kept away from children with chicken pox, measles and slap cheek and should notify their midwife/GP if they develop a rash

### **Types of Infection and Exclusion Timings**

Wee Mack's Nursery follow governmental and NHS advice in regards to infectious illnesses as below:

- \* Fever (38 degrees celsius and over; chills; ): 24 hours from last high temperature reading
- \* Sickness and diarrhoea: 48 hours from last sickness or bowel movement. If your child had three loose nappies or is sick once at nursery, you will be asked to collect your child.
- \* Strep throat: 24 hours after antibiotics and feels well (first dose must have been given by parents)
- \* Noravirus: until no vomiting or diarrhoea for 48 hours
- \* Chickenpox: at least 5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over
- \* Flu (influenza): until fully recovered
- \* Impetigo: until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotics
- \* Measels: 4 days from onset of rash and well enough
- \* Whooping cough: 2 days from starting antibiotics or 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics
- \* Bronchiolitis (croup): until child feels well

### **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.

### **Children Unwell At Nursery**

Children may become unwell whilst at nursery and we may need you to collect your child in such circumstances.

We will firstly attempt to call the first parent/carer listed in the care plan.

If unsuccessful, we will call the second person listed.

If we cannot reach either parent or carer listed within a 30 minute period, we will then call the emergency contact.

Should the emergency contact not be reachable also, Wee Mack's reserves the right to contact an additional agency if necessary.

If necessary, the manager or deputy manager reserves the right to call an ambulance at their professional discretion.

We know that it can be difficult when you are required to collect your sick child. The staff will do their best to only call you in an emergency or when we feel that the child's illness may be infectious. We hope that you can understand that lots of illnesses and sicknesses rotate amongst children and keeping your child home from nursery until they are fully better can prevent spreading illnesses to other children and the staff team.

Please refer to the Types of Infection and Exclusion Timings section of this policy to find out when you child can return to nursery, or check here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>

### **Handwashing Guidelines**

#### **When should hands be washed?**

- Before and after eating or handling food or drink
- After using the toilet, potty or changing a nappy



- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching animals or animal waste
- After contact with contaminated surfaces (e.g. food-contaminated surfaces, rubbish bins, cleaning cloths).
- After touching the face
- When coming in from outside

#### **How to wash hands:**

- Use clean, warm running water
- Use liquid soap (there is no need to use soaps advertised as antibacterial or antiseptic)
- wash hands for a period of 20 seconds
- Dry hands thoroughly using paper towels
- When going on outdoor trips, continue to promote good hand hygiene
- cover cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters

#### **To stop respiratory germs/Covid 19 spreading:**

- Children and adults should cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue, put it in the bin immediately after and then wash hands
- Always wash hands after coughing and sneezing
- Adults should teach children what to do after coughing and sneezing



### **Nappy Changing Policy**

- The area where nappy changing or potty use takes place must be away from areas where children eat, sleep or play
- Staff must wear single use disposable gloves and aprons (wash hands before and after putting on)
- Use pre-approved wipes
- Spray and wipe down surfaces afterwards
- Dispose of waste in the appropriate disposal unit
- If clothes items are wet or soiled, put into a clean nappy sack, tie and label with child's name, date and reason for soiling
- Change child's clothing as required
- Only use approved creams for nappy rash
- Dispose of gloves/apron in appropriate bin

This policy is to be used alongside **Covid-19 Risk Reduction Policy**



## Re: Infection Control at Wee Mack's

Dear Parent or Guardian

Thank you for choosing us to care for your child.

When we welcome new families, we feel it is useful to provide, in writing, some guidelines that will help limit the spread of infection. Please be assured that we follow national guidance to protect the health of all the children in our care.

If your child attends any other day care settings, please tell us.

- If your child is ill, they must not attend childcare.
- If your child becomes unwell whilst in our care, we will phone you to agree a time to collect them.
- Please tell us if your child has been ill while they are away from day care.
- If your child has had symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea (or both), it is essential that they do not attend day care until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped.
- If you're not sure, please phone us before you bring your child to day care.

### Immunisation

As your child will now be mixing more with other children, you should be aware that being up to date with the United Kingdom immunisation schedule will protect your child from a range of illnesses. For advice about immunisation, speak to your health visitor or GP.

Yours sincerely,

Nursery Manager  
Wee Mack's

