**Illness, Infectious Diseases and Hygiene Policy**

It is my policy to keep children safe when they are in my care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting and while I am off site.

In Light of COVID-19, I will be asking parents/carers to provide regular updates on the health of their family/household in order to protect others that are using my service and my own family. I will share updates about my own family’s heath. I will expect all parents/carers to take necessary steps and follow Government guidance to prevent the spread of the disease, for example complying with the current guidance about who you can meet up with and the appropriate social distancing.

In addition, I will comply with this guidance to ensure the safety of my own family and those that access my childcare service. Failure to comply with Government guidance may result in termination of the contract.

**Sick Children – COVID-19**

If a child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, loss or change in sense of smell, or a high temperature they must be collected and parents will be advised to follow the COVID-19; guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a ventilated room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision. If it is not possible to isolate them, I will move them to an area which is at least 2 meters away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom, where possible, which will be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else.

I will wear appropriate PPE when caring for the child while they await collection, if 2 meters distance cannot be maintained.

Should I or any of my family members develop symptoms of the coronavirus I will get tested, my household and I will self-isolate for 10 days. In this circumstance, you will not be charged for any period that I have to close my setting and I will help you to find alternative childcare if required.

All children who attend my setting are encouraged to get tested if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where a child tests negative, they can return to my setting and their household members can end their self-isolation in accordance with Government guidance

Where a child tests Positive for COVID-19, the other children within my setting will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of these families do not need to self-isolate unless their child subsequently develops symptoms.

**Other Illnesses**

If a child in my setting becomes ill whilst in my care, or whom I believe has an infectious illness or disease I will;

* Keep the child away from the other children
* Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for immediate collection of the child
* Ensure the child is excluded from my setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with Health Authority guidelines.

If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a disease or illness which requires notification, I will inform the parents/guardians of my concerns and act on advice given by Public Health England. Which can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> as to when they will be able to return to my setting. I will also inform Ofsted and Pacey of any action taken.

I make parents aware of my sickness exclusion policy and keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in my setting.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents I expect to be paid for the child’s place even if they are excluded from my setting due to an illness or infectious disease. When a child is absent due to vomiting and/or diarrhea, it is necessary that 48 hours have passed since the last bout of illness before they can return to the setting.

If I, or one of my family, has a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform parents as soon as I am able. In this instance, If I am not able to offer my childminding service, I do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

I will inform the parents of the other children in my setting if a child I care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

**Hygiene**

Hygiene procedures are important at all times but particularly due to COVID-19. In my setting I will take the following measures to help prevent germs spreading:

* Carry tissues with me and use them to catch coughs or sneezes. I will bin the tissue and wash my hands or use an alcohol-based sanitizer gel.
* Wash my hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or I will use an alcohol-based sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available.
* Display posters that show good hygiene and hand washing practice
* Avoid touching my eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
* When outside the setting, keep socially distanced at all times
* Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

I ensure that all children and adults in my setting are aware of good hand washing procedures and will be supporting them to wash their hands in line with Government guidance.

I ensure there is a supply of tissues and hand gel available for children to use when required, I will also help children to learn how to catch their sneezes and coughs.

Personal protective equipment will be used in the following situations: intimate care needs e.g nappy changing or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 while in the setting in accordance with relevant Government guidance.

I ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk. I ensure that the pet food dishes are kept away from children. My pet is regularly vaccinated and up to date with worming and flea treatment.

I will follow strict hygiene routines in the kitchen area. I will ensure that the fridge is at the correct temperature and that food is stored correctly in it.

To ensure that I can follow these procedures effectively, I will need you to provide your child with the relevant resources. For example; nappies, spare change of clothes etc.