

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Sickness and Exclusion Policy

Heading into the winter season we are aware that lots of children and staff will suffer from various winter flus and bugs. We are also aware that some of the covid-19 symptoms can be due to other illnesses and we know this may be frustrating.

However, following UK Government guidance is paramount in keeping the children and staff at Incey Winceys as safe as possible, and we are duty bound to take the following steps:

If an individual has *any* of the following symptoms:

- **High temperature** (feeling hot to touch, over 38°C)
- **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))
- **Loss or change to smell or taste**

They must be separated from others and sent home as soon as possible. They must get a covid-19 test as soon as possible and always within 5 days of the onset of symptoms. Everyone in the household must isolate until the test results are back, and then take steps based on whether they develop symptoms. The nursery will be cleaned.

Following a negative test result, if the individual is well enough to return, they can do. Usual sickness policy applies, and we reserve the right to refuse anyone entry into the building that we deem unwell.

If the test result is positive, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can take appropriate steps to keep others safe. This will include seeking advice from the local Health Protection Team (HTP on 0203 837 7084 option 1) and the local authority, track and trace

InceyWinceys Day Nursery

procedures will be followed, notifying Ofsted, closing the premises if necessary and undergoing deep cleaning.

We have become aware that it has been difficult, and in some cases impossible, to get a test. In the event of no tests being available within the first 5 days, the symptomatic person must stay isolated for 10 days from the onset. Others in the household without symptoms must stay in isolation for 14 days as a precautionary measure, or 10 days once symptoms begin.

We cannot allow anyone back to nursery outside of these rules so please do not ask the staff to be flexible, we simply cannot risk coronavirus spreading in the premises and the health and safety of everyone is our priority at all times.

Fees are payable during periods of illness, as per the contract, and with speedy test results, covid-19 should not increase the length of regular exclusions periods. As always, children who are unwell should be kept at home.