

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

### **Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

## **Playpen Pre-school**

### **8.1a COVID-19 Infection Control Policy**

#### **Policy statement**

Our setting believes that the health and safety of children and staff is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

#### **Procedures**

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

#### **Effective infection protection and control**

In childcare settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and disinfectant
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as arrivals and departures)

#### **Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks**

Wearing a face covering or face mask in childcare settings is not recommended. Childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection in the form of a visor should also be worn.