

Royal Naval Preschool Learning Organisation  
(RNPSLO)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) / STREP A Policy**

Dates of amendments

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
11 December 2020  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2020  
16 August 2021  
06 September 2021  
07 January 2022  
23 March 2022  
13 January 2023

**Introduction**

This policy applies to all employees, parents, children, volunteers, students, and all others working on behalf of the organisation.

This policy also applies to service users, contractors, and delivery drivers visiting any of the Jack and Jill's childcare settings belonging to RNPSLO.

**Purpose of the policy**

- To protect all employees, service users including parents and children from COVID/Strep A ( and associated infections such as Chicken Pox, Tonsillitis and Scarlet Fever )
- To maintain the minimum level of staff to continue to provide for the welfare needs of the children in our care.
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- To prevent the spread of COVID/Strep A ( and associated infections such as Chicken Pox, Tonsillitis and Scarlet Fever )
- To keep the childcare settings operational.

If there is a positive COVID test result or confirmed Strep A case then parents/ carers will be notified as quickly as possible and advice and guidance will be taken to any future actions.

Thorough and vigilant cleaning routines continue to remain in place along with social distancing wherever possible.

Visitors remain strictly restricted to mandatory only, with protective measures in place.

If the childcare setting experiences staff shortages due to illness, then the actions below could be put in place in order to keep the childcare setting open. Prior notification would be given to all those concerned at the earliest opportunity.

- This could mean partial opening hours.
- Essential key worker's children only for a period of time
- Reduced staffing.

## Vulnerable Children

When a child is sent home to self-isolate or the setting has to temporarily close due to staff shortages the childcare setting manager will keep in touch with any vulnerable children through regular phone calls, text messages and settings social media pages. Contact will also be with the child's social worker if they have one.

If we have concerns about any children in our care attending our setting or at home with their parents, we will follow our child protection policy and ensure that they complement those of Plymouth Safeguarding Board  
<http://www.plymouthscb.co.uk/professionals/>

If there is a need to share information reference will be made to our data protection policy and procedures to ensure any information shared is in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

If the setting manager has any concerns about a child, then contact to the **Gateway (01752 668000 option 1)** or email [gateway@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:gateway@plymouth.gov.uk) would be undertaken.

For outside of normal working hours call Plymouth Out of Hours Service on 01752 346984.

### For Cornwall

Multi agency Referral Team	0300 123 1116
Out of Hours	01208 251300

Immediate concerns or children in serious danger must be reported to the police 999.

### Monitoring

RNPSLO managements teams are closely monitoring information from professional sources about all aspects of COVID/ Strep A and these are communicated and distributed amongst the childcare settings and considered in any actions proposed and decisions made ensuring the safety of all working and using the childcare settings.

If settings may have to close for a period every effort will be made for the setting manager to stay in touch with vulnerable children and families through telephone, email or social media contact, until such a time the setting can reopen.

## Hygiene (general)

RNPSLO are working with the five key principles to prevent the spread of infection and to protect staff and children.

- Wash hands regularly throughout the day
- Clean the setting and resources thoroughly throughout the day
- Maintain practical group sizes to the staff team available for work
- Avoid where possible or reduce the mixing of persons from outside of the childcare setting coming into the childcare setting.
- De- clutter and reduce items such as soft furnishings ensuring the childcare setting can be cleaned thoroughly and avoid or reduce sharing of resources.

Employees and children are advised to practice good hygiene and cleanliness standards by regularly washing their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds regularly throughout the day.

Everyone is encouraged to regularly use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

Everyone is encouraged to adopt NHS Catch it, bin it and Kill it when coughing and sneezing or use of a bent elbow or a tissue and wash their hands afterwards to help reduce the spread of the COVID -19 virus.

Used tissues and hand wipes will be disposed of safely following recommended guidance.

Staff will model good practices such as avoidance of touching faces and that of others wherever possible.

Uniform (tabards) must be laundered regularly and not shared between staff.

Staff will be vigilant and thorough in the cleaning of all resources used and the preschool buildings areas where activities have taken place during the day. Reduction of some soft furnishings and toys helps to ensure that the setting reduces the spread of the COVID/ Strep A and thorough cleaning and for those settings with very young children any covers, blankets etc. will be restricted to one per child for the duration of the time attending. These covers will be laundered regularly.

## **Access to childcare settings**

Parent/carers remain unable to enter the childcare settings unless through prior arrangement made with the manager outside of the childcare settings operating hours (none or limited numbers of children present at that time.) For essential visitors (settling parents, professional visitors, or contractors) clarification that they are well and free of infection prior to entering must be adhered to.

Designated staff members will escort children into the preschool playroom daily. The children will join the group with the staff remaining consistent. At the end of the day staff will escort the children to waiting parents who are requested to adhere to social distancing whilst waiting for their children. The childcare staff will continue to support and provide learning opportunities for children through adaption of resources and routines daily.

Staff remain constant in their monitoring of hand washing throughout the day.

Snack and lunch times will be structured, with children remaining in groups. Sharing of equipment will be discouraged.

Constant cleaning of resources and areas will take place during the day.

## **Mandatory visitors /contractors**

RNPSLO has a risk assessment for the occasions when it is deemed necessary to admit a visitor from a professional agency access to the building or for a specific child, each childcare setting will adjust accordingly to their own building lay out.

Contractors will be given access to the building at the managers discretion, this may be outside of working hours where no children will be present to carry out any work required or at a designated time when there will be minimal disruption to the childcare setting. Face masks (optional) can be worn for the duration of the visit.

## **Monitoring of children and adults for illness**

Monitoring of staff and children within the setting ensures that every effort is made to be able to continue to remain open.

If there are cases of Covid or Strep A within the setting and a child/ adult has a fever which is a temperature over 38 degrees, then they are to remain at home for 24 hours. Once they are fever free for 24 hours then they can return.

Childcare staff only take lateral flow tests now if they are feeling unwell or have Covid symptoms. If it transpires that they have Covid the staff are

encouraged to take a LFT on days 5 / 6 and can return once two consecutive negative results have been received.

For children with a confirmed case of Strep A they can return to the setting 48 hours after receiving antibiotics and they are well.

Staff will closely monitor the children in their groups and those of others to ensure that children are well.

Parent and carers are instructed to keep their children at home if they are unwell.

Due to seasonal childhood illnesses, there may be occasions when a child will be sent home due to symptoms comparable to that of COVID/ Strep A , any child sent home by the childcare setting will be advised to collect their child promptly from the setting and to seek medical advice.

Anyone who is unable to take LFT tests will need to complete the full 5-day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) .

### **COVID Symptoms**

- A high temperature
- A new or continuous cough
- A loss of or change to taste or smell
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### **STREP A symptoms**

- Sore throat
- Temperature
- Recently had Tonsillitis, Chicken Pox , Scarlet Fever
- Impetigo
- Mouth Ulcers
- Skin rashes

\*For any child that appears unwell appropriate actions will be taken including checking the child's medical records review any information given by the parent, for any family member who has been unwell. (I.e., with symptoms of COVID/ Strep A symptoms and immediate collection from the setting with instruction to the collecting parent that they must inform the setting of any updates, including isolation periods that the child and the family must take.

## Staff Testing positive

- Adults who have received both COVID vaccinations and a booster vaccination will no longer have to isolate after meeting someone who has tested positive. They are advised to take a LFT if they feel unwell.

If symptoms of COVID develop they should self-isolate and test day 5 and refrain from mixing within large groups of people.

If an employee becomes unwell with any of the recognized or associated symptoms of COVID /Strep A then they are to speak with a senior member of staff who will refer to RNPSLO COVID/ Strep A risk assessment and follow actions.

They will be unable to return to the childcare setting until a test result Day 5 is received stating negative .

RNPSLO would follow advice and guidelines from Department of Education, Public Health England, Ofsted and the Local Education Authority undertaking any actions required.

### Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice service are available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education and childcare settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Guidance to support education and childcare providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#)

## **Cleaning the childcare setting following infection**

RNPSLO staff will follow recommended guidance in cleaning the childcare setting following infections from Covid/Strep A or associated symptoms . The workplace will be cleaned using COVID GUARD provided to all childcare settings.

This will include all resources that were used the day the person showed symptoms and resources used two days before when the person was last in.

Any waste from a positive test result (cleaning cloths, PPE etc.) will be placed in a plastic rubbish bag and sealed. The bag can be placed in a rubbish bin.

For any laundry that has been in contact with the virus, either remove and throw away in the instruction above or can be laundered on the warmest setting and dried completely. Dirty Laundry can be washed with other items. Do not shake dirty laundry as dispersal of the virus into the air is a probability. People undertaking laundry from a childcare setting will need to wear PPE provided and afterwards this will need to be dispersed of safely in the same way as the rubbish.

This policy is regularly amended in line with current guidance.