

Coronavirus / COVID-19 Policy - updated August 2021



Magdalen Gates preschool wants to reassure you that your child's and our staff safety is of utmost importance to us, as we still travel along this unknown journey.

The staff and Trustees have made some changes in order to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19 in the setting. These are informed by the requirements of the most recent Public Health England guidance.

- Guidance: COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings - Updated 19/07/21

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

- More guidance for parents and carers can be found here, published 18/06/2021 and updated 17/08/2021

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?fbclid=IwAR04cxQvAPBhb08tdK0VePB3BGyngQRrLBpnVuDAKd4Lx9RNpiJ4Y_G977s

Norfolk county council have issued us with a checklist (Supporting Early Years and Childcare settings in Norfolk to open to all children)

All staff, trustees and the manager Paula have access to this working document for the purpose of ensuring everyone can be kept as safe as is possible during this time. This document has been updated for the summer term onwards to reflect government guidelines.

Getting tested for Coronavirus with symptoms:

The Government has published the following information regarding getting tested. **Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.** Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

The Delta variant of Covid 19 also includes a runny nose, a sore throat and a headache as symptoms.

Staff and children must not come into their education setting if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop symptoms. All children can be tested if they have symptoms, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents or carers if using a home testing kit.

Getting tested for Coronavirus without symptoms:

Latest Government advice and updates about the roadmap can be found here;

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?utm_campaign=coronavirus_grants&utm_medium=paid_search&utm_source=google&utm_content=keyword&gclid=CjwKCAjw07qDBhBxEiwA6pPbHkAbmilpabcApIKLEKkSsZ6JUv2Ux7e5Sb08cosKHtT_3dM7SfqNExoCJU0QAvD

From 9/04/21 everyone in England can have access to twice weekly testing via a lateral flow testing kit, quick and easy to do, all our staff are carrying out these tests to prevent spreading the virus into the setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/twice-weekly-rapid-testing-to-be-available-to-everyone-in-england>

The trustees and the staff at the preschool invite you to take advantage of the testing (free of charge) and it is easily accessible either through local pharmacies, testing sites, or online.

This will help to keep the virus from entering the setting through a “contact case” or a child who is asymptomatic. This would hopefully avoid further closures if a number of staff are affected and we have to close due to a shortage of staff.

The Government has published a list of actions that early years, schools and further education colleges must follow in the event that a child or young person displays symptoms or if they confirm they have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

The action lists are sector specific and print friendly. The early years action list can be accessed using this link:
published 24/03/21 updated 17/8/21

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus." – **Public Health England, however research shows that in young children symptoms can also show as; Fatigue, headache, diarrhoea, sore throat and rash.** We are asking that parents do not administer children's pain relieving medicines prior to attending preschool in order that it doesn't mask any of these symptoms. Magdalen Gates Preschool will check the temperature of a child if they seem unwell with any of the common or less common symptoms of Covid-19 and ask you to arrange a test before the child can return to their normal sessions.

Government Guidance from 16/08/21:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-removed-for-double-jabbed-close-contacts-from-16-august>

The latest guidance (link above) states that double vaccinated individuals and under 18s no longer need to self isolate if they are identified as a close contact by Nhs Test and Trace but instead are advised to take a PCR test.

Please ensure your child is **well** before attending their session, if you are unsure please contact preschool to seek advice. We want to work with families to contain the spread of the virus and stop it impacting on the staffing level of Preschool should members of staff contract it.

We request that if a member of the family has a positive case that you think carefully before sending your child to Preschool.

Cleaning:

We will regularly clean the setting before, during and after each session and a deep clean at the end of each week, with appropriate disinfectant products. Resources and equipment which are difficult to clean including mats, cushions and soft toys, will be sprayed with an antibacterial spray after each day. Surfaces which are touched often will be cleaned regularly. Soft furnishings will be covered and cleaned appropriately if they

are not washable. Children will be discouraged from putting toys in their mouths.

The preschool holds a good level of equipment including PPE to ensure the safety of the staff and your children should a case of Covid -19 be discovered at the setting.

The preschool is professionally treated with a microbial spray every 4-6 weeks as a preventative measure, The treatment fogs the setting with solutions of disinfectants capable of killing the virus on surfaces and microorganisms in the air.

Social distancing:

Learning from outbreaks;

“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.” – Public Health England

The guidance advises settings to follow the hygiene measures detailed, instead of attempting social distancing.

We regularly review measures needed to reduce transmission risk between adults. We review where staff interactions are taking place and that these are managed in a COVID-Secure way. In particular, the following situations are avoided as much as possible;

- In person meetings

In addition we consider:

- Whether all touch points have been identified and are regularly cleaned and disinfected e.g. shared kettles, chairs
- How we can eliminate or reduce sharing of resources such as mugs, cutlery, pens, paper (the guidance on sharing of resources for children is equally applicable to staff)
- Whether areas can be effectively cleaned e.g. are worktops kept clear for cleaning, do staff have a storage area for bags and coats?
- Visitors and Parents are not permitted into the setting unless there is an emergency
- Measures are being monitored, reinforced and reviewed regularly.

Contacting the Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre (NOMC):

From Monday 23rd November 2020 we will contact the NOMC first for notification of positive cases and COVID related queries. The Management of Cases Guidance has been updated to request that all contacts with the NOMC are made by email in the first instance unless the call is urgent. Additional

information on the details required by the NOMC are also provided. This information will support them to prioritise notifications and requests so they can support us better. Outbreak Management Centre 01603 223219 or phnorfolkcomc@norfolk.gov.uk.

Drop-off and collection:

Even though face coverings are not compulsory, we request that they are still worn during this time to reduce transmission please. Staff may be wearing face coverings when welcoming children into the setting.

Adults (please only arrive with one member of the family where possible) we ask that you socially distance from other families when dropping off and collecting their child.

Please guide your child to the member of staff on the door and then your child will be taken to hang up their belongings.

At collection time, once you have your child sent to you please leave the premises as quickly as possible.

Preschool will give individual instructions on what will be permitted to bring into preschool for their session. Please could you ensure that if applicable, sun cream has been applied to your child and that they have a sun hat and a clearly labelled water bottle with their name.

If possible, we ask that children attend one setting but appreciate this isn't always possible.

Washing hands:

We will ask children to wash their hands

- On arrival at the setting
- Before and after eating
- After coughing or sneezing into a tissue – (catch it, bin it, and kill it).

This is in addition to any other times children would usually be asked to clean their hands. We will supervise children washing their hands and support them as needed.

Safeguarding

- An addendum (covid-19 addendum) has been added to our policy section on our website that detailed specific safeguarding procedures that were relevant during phase one of the pandemic.

<http://www.magdalengatespreschool.com/policies/4588773748>

Emergency contact details - please check that we have up to date contact details for yourself in case of emergency, and also please ensure that any other contacts are not those of, for example, shielding grandparents who would not be able to collect.

We will continue to risk assess the setting and keep fully updated with the latest guidance.

We will update our procedures as necessary.

We will keep parents and carers informed of any changes to opening times and days and the reasons for these, including Government advice on closures due to a rise in the infection rate or extreme staff shortages.

If any family is struggling and requires advice, please ask us to signpost you to a variety of agencies that are still giving help and advice to families during this time.

Just One Norfolk for a range of support including emotional wellbeing, practical and mental health support for families 0300 300 0123

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/>

Norfolk County Council Children's Advice and Duty Service
(CADS) 0344 800 8020

<https://www.communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk/Services/8938>

Norfolk Assistance Scheme

There are many people in our community who are vulnerable, and even more so during the coronavirus outbreak. The Norfolk Assistance Scheme can provide the ongoing support people need, with urgent help with food, cash or household items or gas and electricity costs. For more information go to <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme> this information is for our families if they are struggling with finances due to COVID-19

The staff and trustees of Magdalen Gates preschool wish to drop off and collection times. We look forward to continuing to provide exciting and rich learning experiences for your families.