



## 04 Health procedures

### **4.5(a) Managing a suspected case of Coronavirus**

#### **The main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss of change to smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please refer to the latest government guidance on [next-steps-for-living-with-COVID](#). If it is suspected that a child or employee has COVID, (staff do not attempt to diagnose or make assumptions about symptoms presented), they should immediately respond and take action as detailed in this procedure. This includes asking parents/carers of the child to seek further advice from a medical practitioner who may/or may not advise that the symptoms meet the criteria for testing. This is the same for employees also. In which case if the child/employee appears well and displays no further suspect symptoms, they can return to the setting within the timescale advised by the medical practitioner.

Children who test positive for Covid-19 should stay off for 3 days starting the day after the test was done.

Employees who test positive for Covid-19 should stay off for 5 days starting the day after the test was done.

The focus on coronavirus must not detract from staff being alert to the signs and symptoms linked to other serious illness as detailed below:

#### **What to do if a child seems very unwell**

Children and babies will still get illnesses that can make them very unwell quickly. It is important to get seek medical help and to contact the child's parents immediately.

#### **Call 999 if a child:**

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a seizure or fit for the first time
- has unusually cold hands
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin

- has a weak, high-pitched cry that is not like their usual cry
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards
- is not responding like they normally do

### **Being prepared**

- All staff are aware of this procedure and their responsibility if a child becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms at the setting.
- Staff are instructed in how to remove and dispose of PPE equipment safely – this includes aprons and gloves worn during routine care procedures. We display the NHS guide to putting on and removing PPE.

### **If a child becomes unwell**

- If a child is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus. The manager/deputy calls their parents to collect them immediately. Current guidance states that: *'Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.'*

**This policy was adopted by:** Whitehill Childcare Services Ltd

**On:** 17/09/2022

**Date to be reviewed:** 17/09/2023

**Signed on behalf of provider:**



**Name of Signatory:** Mrs Hannah Bell

**Role of Signatory:** Manager