

Walker Children's Club (WCC)

Covid-19 Policy

WCC recognises that careful planning is essential in order to keep the children and our staff safe, and to limit the spread of coronavirus/Covid-19, within our setting. Accordingly, we have conducted a thorough Covid-19 **risk assessment** and will review it on a monthly basis and whenever Government guidance changes.

Covid-19 symptoms

Covid-19 is a viral, respiratory disease, which is spread from person to person by close contact. It typically causes fever and a dry cough, and in some cases may progress to viral pneumonia which cannot be treated by antibiotics. Symptoms of Covid-19 can include:

Continuous dry cough	Sore throat
Fever (high temperature)	Tiredness
Difficulty breathing	Loss of taste and smell

The initial symptoms are similar to colds and flu-type illnesses, but the combination of a recent onset of fever and a new continuous cough and loss of smell and taste seem to be present in many cases of Covid-19. However, it is important to be aware that in some cases the symptoms may be very mild or even non-existent, especially in children.

Procedure for infection or suspected infection

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be Covid-19 while at the Club will be isolated from the other children by at least two metres until the child can be collected by his or her parents. If the child becomes seriously ill, we will call 999.

If a child or member of staff has suspected symptoms of Covid-19, they will be sent home and must follow the Government guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infection. This includes self-isolation and taking a Covid-19 test. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> (updated in December 2021 that the isolation period for a confirmed case of Covid/symptoms of, is lowered to 7 days if you get a negative lateral flow test on day 6 and 7)

Most suspected cases of Covid-19 turn out to be negative, so the Club will remain open unless or until advised otherwise by the local Health Protection Team, but parents and staff will be informed, especially those in high risk groups. WCC outbreak policy will accompany the Covid Policy.

If children or staff experience any symptoms of Covid-19 they must not attend the Club until all symptoms have passed and they feel well.

Infection control

Like the common cold and flu viruses, Covid-19 is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance.
- Direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Touching objects (eg door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands. Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will take the following steps to reduce the risk of catching or spreading Covid-19 at the Club:

Hygiene:

- Staff and children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at the Club, and will be reminded to wash their hands regularly throughout the session, especially after using the toilet, before eating food and after coughing or sneezing.
- Hand sanitiser will be available in convenient locations throughout the club.
- We will have tissues readily available for use when sneezing and coughing, and these will be disposed of, in a lidded bin, immediately after use.
- If they don't have a tissue to hand, children will be instructed to cough or sneeze into the crook of their arm.
- We will discourage children from touching their faces.
- We will discourage children from touching each other.
- Children may not be allowed to bring toys or games from home, and we ask that they bring only essential items with them to the Club.

Cleaning:

- We will ensure that frequently-touched surfaces, such as handles, door plates, light switches, table tops and toys are regularly cleaned with anti-bacterial spray or wipes, before, during and after each session.
- We will avoid toys that are difficult to clean.
- We will regularly clean or quarantine soft toys and soft furnishings, such as cushions and rugs.
- We may restrict the sharing of toys and equipment between groups as much as possible. Any toys or equipment that need to be shared will be thoroughly cleaned before being used by the next group, should the guidance advise us to do so.
- The premises, including toilets and sinks will be cleaned before each session, by a professional cleaning company and at specified intervals while the club is in operation. Cleaning chart is in operation

Arrivals and departures:

- We have amended our collection procedure, so parents will now collect their children from outside the Club or if they need to enter the building, they are currently asked to wear a face covering and use a sanitiser. We request that parents do not stay in the building for more than 15 minutes. **Updated January 2022 informing parents not to enter the building**
- If it becomes necessary, we will assign different collection points to limit the congregation of parents outside the Club.
- A member of staff will sign the children in and out, or make a request sign them out. Parents must ensure their collector list is up to date

Premises

- Visitors, eg delivery drivers /maintenance people, will not be allowed to enter the premises, without wearing a face covering and sanitising their hands.
- Doors and windows will be kept open where safe to do so, to keep the premises well ventilated.

Movement around the club:

- Children will be put into groups of no more than 15, when they first come to attend the club. As far as possible, these groups will be maintained, whenever they attend. **Current guidance does not require this at present**
- When indoors, the hall will be ventilated by opening windows and some doors.
- Outdoor play will take place as much as possible.
- Toilets will be regularly checked.

Activity planning:

- We will plan activities that minimise contact between children.

- Whenever possible, activities will take place outside.

Food:

Staff are currently serving snacks to the children.

- Staff will wear PPE when preparing food
- Children will be discouraged from sharing food
- Parents may provide their own snack for their children if they prefer.

Promoting good practice

We will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition we will:

- Ensure that all staff have received training in, and understand, our new procedures
- Display posters and information to promote infection control
- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available within the Club
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.

Closure

We may need to temporarily close the Club if we have insufficient staff due to illness to run sessions safely. If this occurs the manager will contact **DfE helpline 0800 046 8687 option 1 for further support and guidance.**

In the event that we have a specified number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 associated with the Club, we may need to close if advised to do so by the local Health Protection Team in order to limit the spread of the virus.

If the Club needs to close, the manager will notify parents or carers as soon as possible. The manager will also inform the local Early Years or Childcare service as well as other relevant parties, eg feeder schools, other users of shared premises, etc. The manager will also notify Ofsted of the closure.

Useful contacts

DfE helpline 0800 046 8687 option 1

Early Years or Childcare Service: eyteam@enfield.gov.uk

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

Health Protection Team (HPT): covid.virus@enfield.gov.uk

This policy was adopted by: WCC	Date: December 2021
To be reviewed: January 2022 Plan B implemented by the Government and risk assessments updated.	Trustee approval

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.44].