

## Infection Control - Covid -19

### 1. Prevention

#### Hand hygiene

- Sunshine Crèche & Montessori ensure that there are adequate hand washing facilities and supplies of warm water (<43.0 °C), liquid soap, paper towels, hand sanitiser (above 60% alcohol content) and bins for disposal of paper towels available throughout the service
- Staff members must wash their own hands and assist children's hands washing using liquid soap and warm running water (age appropriately). Disposable single-use paper towels to be used for hand drying.
- Handwashing at a minimum should occur:
  - Immediately upon arrival and leaving the service
  - On entering /leaving any care room or communal room, staff room, bathroom, laundry room within the service
  - Immediately after outdoor play and before re-entering the service
  - Before and after nappy changing
  - After using the toilet
  - Prior to eating meals
  - All staff and children should wash their hands after wiping children's noses. Children are encouraged to do this themselves, but younger children may require assistance
  - If visibly dirty
  - After sneezing and coughing
  - Prior to and after handling food
  - Before and after caring for a sick child
- Nails should be cut short and free from polish. Hands and fingers should be free from jewellery and acrylic nails.
- Hand sanitiser may be used as an alternative to handwashing where handwashing facilities are not readily available outdoors. Hand sanitiser



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will be placed out of reach of young children. Children will always be supervised whilst using hand sanitiser.

- Hand sanitiser should be available at all entrances and exits to the service and at the entrance to each care room. The sanitiser should be used each time an adult or child enters and leaves a room.

### **Personal hygiene/ respiratory etiquette**

- Children should be taught the required steps for handwashing and respiratory etiquette appropriate to their stage of development; children should avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
- Games, songs and rhymes can be used to make practices as messaging as child friendly as possible.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a clean tissue when coughing and sneezing and then promptly dispose of the tissue in a foot-operated pedal bin—hands to be washed or sanitised immediately after. A supply of tissues should be available in each care room. If tissues are not available, best practice is to cough or sneeze into the bend of elbow, not into the hands.
- Additional handwashing is required when caring for babies or children who are teething or dribbling.
- Particular attention will be paid to personal hygiene when caring for babies and young children who require close physical contact and comfort. Contact points such as neck or arms may become contaminated with secretions or mucous, and these will be washed immediately.
- Visibly soiled clothing of staff or children should be changed, and hands washed. Children's faces, particularly infants and toddlers, must be kept clean of secretions by careful and gentle washing.
- Staff must ensure they have an adequate quantity of additional clean clothes to change into if required throughout the day. Each child should also have an adequate supply of additional clean clothes available to them in the service



## **Travel restrictions**

You are asked to follow national guidelines from the Health and Safety Board in relation to travel restrictions. If you'll arrive from the countries not stated on the green list, you must stay in self-isolation for 14 days before enrolment.

## **Pre-enrolment control**

1. You'll be asked to fill out the pre-enrolment form. The purpose of this form is to seek confirmation that you/ your child, to the best of your knowledge have no symptoms of Covid- 19, and also you're not self-isolating are waiting for the results of Covid-19 test.

## **Procedures**

### **Suspected case of COVID-19**

1. If an infection of COVID-19 is suspected, parents/guardians will be contacted so that they can collect the child immediately and consult their GP. In the meantime, the child should be kept comfortable and away from the main group of children and have tissues available and water to drink.
2. Use of an infrared non-contact thermometer is recommended. If not using an infrared thermometer, a thermometer with single-use protective covers must be used.
3. Any child who is a close contact of a person who has a confirmed diagnosis or is suspected of having COVID-19 must not attend the service, and remain at home in quarantine for 14 days.
4. If a child or adult diagnosed with COVID-19 spent time in a communal area like a play area or sleeping area, or if they used the toilet or bathroom facilities, these areas will be cleaned with household detergent followed by a disinfectant as soon as is practicably possible.



5. All cases of children/parents diagnosed with Covid -19, or suspected of having Covid-19 will be reported to Tusla and HSE.

6. Pay special attention to frequently touched sites including door handles, backs of chairs, taps of washbasins, toilet handles. Once cleaning and disinfection have been completed and all surfaces are completely dry, the area can be put back into use.

### **Maintaining social distancing where possible**

1. We'll maintain social distancing of at least 2m where possible by avoiding queuing or congregating at arrival and collection times. Schedule arrival and collection times for individual children so that all children do not arrive or leave at the same time. Parents/guardians may wait in cars to avoid congregating at the entrance. Distancing markers will be placed outside the service where possible. Children should be brought straight to their specific care room on arrival.

2. Staff from different 'play-pods' should maintain social distancing (2 metres). Where two staff are part of one pod, they should social distance as far as is practicable.

3. We will void mixing of groups (for example circle time) and use of communal areas or shared spaces such as dining rooms, multi-purpose rooms or sensory rooms.

4. Where necessary, remove tables/chairs in classrooms/ staff room to limit the number of people per table and maintain social distancing.

5. In certain circumstances (i.e., communal dining areas), it may be appropriate to stagger meals and activities.

6. Fire evacuation will be carried out per room rather than the entire building during the period of COVID-19

7. Where external deliveries are required, practices must be put in place to ensure that delivery staff remain outside the premises and adhere to social distancing and good infection control practices. Maintenance or external contractors (to include cleaning staff) must be brought in out of hours where feasible

### **Environmental cleaning**

1. The service will be cleaned before it reopens.

2. We'll increase the frequency and extent of cleaning regimes and ensure that they include:

- Cleaning regularly touched objects and surfaces using a household cleaning product
  - Paying particular attention to high-contact areas such as door handles, grab rails/ handrails in corridors/stairwells, plastic-coated or laminated worktops, desks, access touchpads, telephones/keyboards in offices, and toilets/taps/sanitary fittings
  - Wearing rubber gloves when cleaning surfaces. Wash the gloves while still wearing them, then wash your hands after you take them off

3. Responsibility for the monitoring of cleaning agents and equipment must be designated to a named person.

4. Services that operate two sessions in a day must be thoroughly cleaned and ventilated between sessions.

5. The service should be cleaned thoroughly throughout the day at designated times. If employing dedicated cleaning staff, they should work outside service opening hours. When cleaning, the cleaning staff should wear gloves and aprons. Water and a general-purpose detergent (used according to the manufacturer's instructions) is adequate for general cleaning purposes.

6. High contact areas such as tables, counters, door handles, switches and handrails should be cleaned frequently with disinfectants. If the surface is visibly dirty, household detergent and warm water should be used prior to disinfecting the surface.

## **Waste management**

1. All personal waste, including used tissues and all cleaning waste, should be placed in a plastic rubbish bag.
2. The bag should be tied when it is almost full and then place it into a second bin bag and tied. Once the bag has been tied securely, it should be left somewhere safe.
3. Foot-operated bins should be available in all rooms and accessible to staff and children.
4. In the event of a suspected case or confirmed case of COVID-19 occurring at the service, the following waste management system is recommended:
  - There is a supply of refuse bags available for the double bagging and disposal of contaminated waste to be used only if a case of COVID-19 is suspected in the service
  - A designated area for the storage of possible contaminated COVID-19 waste for 3 days must be available after which time it can be placed with normal waste. Refer to [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

## **Personal protective equipment**

1. Strict attention to personal hygiene is important to reduce the spread of the virus. We ensure that a supply of PPE is available and used when required by staff in the service. Staff should wear personal protective equipment which must include disposable single-use plastic aprons, and non-powdered, non-permeable gloves when there is a risk of coming into contact with body fluids (such as nappy changing).
2. We have an adequate supply of surgical masks available for anyone that develops symptoms of COVID-19 or if a staff member chooses to use one when caring for a sick child.
3. While cleaning agents and PPE must be accessible to staff, safe storage of these items must be in place to avoid poisoning or injury to children.

## **Ventilation**

1. Rooms will be kept well ventilated by keeping windows open where possible at intervals throughout the day or by using effective mechanical ventilation.
2. Where ventilation is by mechanical means, the correct number of air changes must take place in order to ensure that fresh air is provided and to assist in the removal of germs. It must be maintained, and filters changed in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Toys and play materials/activities**

1. Toys that cannot be cleaned according to the instructions should not be used during this time
2. Individual mouthing toys used for children who are teething must be brought in from home and only used if required. Staff should be vigilant that these items, if used, are not transferred between children and are removed immediately after use. Such items must be sterilised in accordance with manufacturer's guidance. This will also apply to toys located in the room which children mouth. It is important to note manufacturers guidance on sterilising solution may have changed due to COVID-19.
3. We ensure a sufficient supply of toys and equipment are accessible and clean for each play-pod. Consideration should be given to how toys are shared. Toys should not be shared between 'play-pods'. Materials not in use should be removed from the room and used in rotation.
4. Comfort toys from home may be brought into the service but must not be shared with other children.
5. The use of certain types of toys (e.g. soft toys, stuffed toys, play dough) needs to be considered carefully. If their use is considered important for the children it is important to avoid sharing of items between children in so far as is practical. Playdough will be replaced daily, and soft toys will be washed regularly.

## **Outdoor play and activities**

1. Time spent outdoors should be maximised where possible.
2. Outings away from the service may be undertaken in accordance with public health guidance.
3. The use of the outdoor area will be staggered, nevertheless two play-pods can play outdoors at the same time provided they adhere to social distancing.
4. Fixed play equipment in the outdoor area will be cleaned and disinfected after each group uses the area with written record available.
5. All staff and children must wash their hands on re-entering the premises after outdoor play. Cleaning of the outdoor play area will be incorporated into the services cleaning schedule.

## **Food provision**

1. Ancillary/catering staff will not be moving between rooms. Food will be brought to the individual care rooms and served by the staff members allocated to that room.

## **Sleep/rest**

1. Sleeping cots will be arranged as normal so that there is a physical distance of 50cm between cots. Sleeping cots should be arranged to so that there is physical distance between groups of cots for children from different pods. If more than 1 play-pod are present in a sleep area/room there should be a distance of 2m between the different play-pods (groups of children).
2. Cots ideally should not be used by more than one child, and it is preferable that each child requiring a cot would have their own named cot or sleep bed/mat and own named bed linen. Where this cannot be provided, children can use the same cot at different times subject to strict infection control practices being undertaken between use:
  - Cleaning of the cot frame
  - Cleaning of the mattress
  - Changing of the bed linen





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- Labelling of the sleep equipment with the name(s) of the children who use the cot
  - Record when the bed linen was changed
3. Daily cleaning of mattresses and sleep mats must take place with additional cleaning required when visibly soiled.
  4. The provision of individual sheets and bed linen is required, and staff must be vigilant in the safe removal and laundering of soiled linen and the appropriate storage of clean bed linen. All laundry to be washed at the highest temperature that the fabric can tolerate.
  5. Child-sized furniture used in cosy corners must be easy to clean and covered in a wipeable material.