

Essential Policies & Procedures for the EYFS

6.2 a – Preventing the spread of COVID – 19 and responding to infection

COVID-19 Update July 2020

As described in the government guidance, [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) (updated 2 July 2020):

'Settings are also responsible for planning and implementing appropriate protective measures to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission. Section 3 of this guidance sets out the public health advice which early years settings must follow. It also includes the process that should be followed if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while attending. This guidance has been developed with advice from Public Health England (PHE).

*'These measures make up a 'system of controls', described in section 3, building on the hierarchy of protective measures that have been in use throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are keeping the protective measures under review, in line with the latest scientific advice.'**

*Please refer directly to the guidance for further information and for any updates.

Therefore, providers can either choose to update their policies in line with the 'systems of controls', or use them as a separate procedure, as provided here.

'The system of controls provides a set of principles and if settings follow this advice, they will effectively minimise risks. All elements of the system of controls are essential. All settings must cover them all, but the way different settings implement some of the requirements will differ based on their individual circumstances. Where something is essential for public health reasons, as advised by PHE, we have said 'must'. Where there is a legal requirement we have made that clear.'

'System of controls

This is the set of actions early years settings must take. They are outlined in more detail below.

Prevention:

- 1) *minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend settings*
- 2) *clean hands thoroughly more often than usual*
- 3) *ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- 4) *introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach*
- 5) *minimise contact between groups where possible*
- 6) *where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)*

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all settings, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and settings must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in all specific circumstances.

Response to any infection:

7) engage with the NHS Track and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the setting community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.'

Local outbreak of COVID-19

In the event of a local outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19), the government will take action to control the spread of the virus. As has occurred in Leicester, people in the affected area may be asked to stay at home as much as they can and not travel unless essential. Any providers who are affected by a local outbreak will receive specific guidance for their area. For providers in Leicester, guidance can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-lockdowns-guidance-for-education-and-childcare-settings.

Further guidance on COVID-19 related matters, can be found at www.eyalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-early-years.