

The Den
Covid-19 Policy
March 2022 onwards

The Den recognises that careful planning is essential in order to keep the children and our staff safe, and to limit the spread of Covid-19, within our setting.

Accordingly, we have conducted a thorough Covid-19 **risk assessment** and will review it on a monthly basis, where the local situation may change 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. Typical symptoms include new, persistent cough, high temperature and loss of (or change to) your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Many people report cold or flu like symptoms, fatigue, loss of appetite and shortness of breath in addition to, or instead of the main three symptoms. However, it is important to be aware that in some cases the symptoms may be very mild or even non-existent (asymptomatic infection), especially in children and these symptoms may also have another cause.

Procedure where an individual child develops Covid-19 symptoms or has a positive test

We now understand that children who have symptoms of Covid-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not have any symptoms.

If a child or member of staff has suspected symptoms of Covid-19, they will be sent home and must follow the UK Health Security Agency guidance for households with Covid-19 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.

Whilst it is no longer a legal requirement for people with Covid-19 to self-isolate, the UKHSA guidance does state that anyone who has any of the main symptoms should seek a PCR test.

If that test result is positive the guidance recommends that people with Covid-19 infection should not attend work wherever possible. Children with Covid-19 should not attend their education or childcare setting.

People with positive cases of Covid-19 should take an LFD test from five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), followed by another one the next day (day 6). If both those test results are negative, they can return, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

For UKHSA guidance please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

The Department for Education 'Covid-19: Actions for Out of School Settings' guidance makes clear that The Den may refuse a place to a child with confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, if we determine that this is a reasonable measure to protect other children and staff from possible infection.

The Den will not accept children who have tested positive Covid-19, even if they do not have symptoms.

Infection control

It is the responsibility of The Den to try to ensure the environment is safe for people who visit or attend. We will take reasonable steps to ensure this including regularly reviewing and updating our risk assessments.

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 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.

Cleaning:

- We will ensure effective cleaning schedule for the club. Regular cleaning of areas and equipment will occur twice a day as a minimum.
- Frequently touched surfaces, such as handles, door plates, light switches, tabletops and toys are regularly cleaned with anti-bacterial spray or wipes, will have particular focus.

Premises

- Ventilation is important in minimising transmission of airborne viruses. Ventilation will be included as part of our risk assessment and poorly ventilated areas identified. Steps will be taken to maximise the fresh air flow in these areas, wherever practical.
- Doors and windows may be kept open where safe to do so, to keep the premises well ventilated, whilst balancing the provision of a comfortable childcare environment.
- We continue to use the extractor fan and UV air purifiers in the club.

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 North Somerset Council for further support and guidance.

In the event that we have a high number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 associated with the Club, we may need to step up our measures in line with our Contingency Plan and advice received from UKHSA, Department for Education or local Health Protection Teams. This will be as a last resort given the detrimental impact on children, their families and our staff team.

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.

This policy was adopted by: The Den	Date: 22/04/22
To be reviewed: Monthly	Signed: AGriffin

Written in accordance with:

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.42].

UK Health Security Agency 'Covid-19: people with Covid-19 and their contacts' 24th February 2022

Department for Education 'Covid-19: Actions for out-of-school settings' February 2022