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**Coronavirus (covid-19) policy and procedures**

**September 2022**

**Buxton Preschool Playgroup**

This policy and procedure document sets out how we will act to minimise the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) at preschool.

We are following latest Government guidelines available on gov.uk

Please be aware that as the government response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) evolves, so too will the guidelines. We will modify our policy and procedures accordingly and they will stay in place until no longer relevant.

Staff should read and be familiar with this document and the government guidance documents above.

Staff and families must work together to implement the procedures below to ensure we are able to minimise the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and provide the safest environment possible to children, families, and staff.

SYMPTOMS

No one should enter the grounds or premises if they have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees).

Please follow the [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

HANDWASHING

Guidance states that handwashing (for 20 seconds) should be more frequent than usual.

Staff will wash their hands more frequently than usual and particularly before and after assisting children in the bathroom, before and after assisting children with food and drinks, and following assisting children with nose blowing/ coughs/sneezes.

Children will wash their hands; after coughs and sneezes/ nose wiping, before and after eating or drinking. Hand washing will continue regularly throughout the day.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is no longer recommended by gov.uk and therefore is not required in our setting.

Staff may wear PPE (including: clear visor, aprons, masks, gloves etc.) during personal care and when closer contact is needed.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE PREMISES

We have reverted back to our old way of entering and leaving the premises as we are no longer required to have extra measures in place.

ITEMS FROM HOME

Essential items only (eg change of clothes/nappies) may be brought in from home. Toys from home will not be allowed during the session. If you feel a child’s comforter is absolutely essential, this will be kept in the child’s bag when not in direct use, and we ask that they be laundered each time before bringing them to preschool.

THE SESSION

Young children are not expected to social distance or wear masks and they should feel safe and secure at the preschool. We will try to make the preschool setting as ‘normal’ and inviting as we can whilst taking into consideration that some shared resources will have to be limited in order for them to be cleaned.

FOOD AND DRINK

Children MUST bring a NAMED water bottle which will be kept in our red tray in setting.

ILLNESS DURING SESSION

Children MUST NOT attend a session if there is no one available to collect them quickly if they become ill during the session.

IF A CHILD OR MEMBER OF STAFF BECOMES UNWELL WITH RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Any child or member of staff showing signs of respiratory illness will be sent home. Whilst awaiting collection, the child will be kept calm and relaxed by a member of staff.

*Please see below, a section taken out of the Exclusion table of infectious Diseases from www.gov.uk*

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| ***Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)*** | ***Children and young people should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell Children and young people who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test*** | ***Children with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting.*** |

CLEANING

Regular cleaning of resources and areas will be undertaken to reduce the risk or spread of infection or illness.