Kea Preschool

COVID Outbreak Management Plan

Introduction The Government has made it a National priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE’s published COVID Contingency Framework states that settings should have an “outbreak management plan”, outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

• To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting

• If there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission

• as part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC) In these cases, the Guidance also states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, “ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis”. This plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID (these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance).

• Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak

[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures)

• Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the COVID-19 pandemic

[COVID-19: Actions for out-of-school settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/covid-19-actions-for-out-of-school-settings)

Scenario 1 – Single Confirmed COVID Case at Kea Preschool

If there is one case identified in the preschool the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

• The staff will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information

•Staff will follow their Local Authority reporting guidance

• Those in close contact will be advised to take a PCR test before returning to the preschool.

* If the case is suspected or confirmed of the Omicron variant, the close contact need to self isolate for 10 days and take daily Lateral Flow tests.

From 19th July settings no longer were expected to undergo contract tracing. NHS Track and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. The preschool will work alongside NHS Track and Tracey when necessary to help identify close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self isolate if they are contacted by NHS Track and Trace s a close contact of a positive Covid – 19 cases. They will be advised to take a PCR Test.

From Wednesday 15th December 2021 any close contact who is double vaccinated and childrenwill be asked to take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days (all variants). If during this time they develop symptoms or have a positive result, isolate immediately.

If staff choose not to be vaccinated, they WILL be required to self isolate for 10 days if in contact with a positive COVID-19 case. We encourage staff to take up the vaccinations.

• The Preschool Covid Risk Assessment to be evaluated in light of any learning from new case

Scenario 2 – Outbreak within Setting

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting is:

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific non residential setting with illness onset dates within 14 days, and one of the following:

• identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases

• When there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases. An outbreak is deemed to last 28 days from the last positive diagnosis.

The best way to avoid an outbreak in the setting is to ensure preventative measures are in place. Within the preschool the following will be in place:

• A risk assessment that reflects the current Government Guidance

• Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with Guidance.

• Hand sanitiser will be freely available for staff and children

• The outdoor hand sanitising station at the entrance and outdoor sinks will remain installed and available for all.

• LFT testing will be available for staff and staff will continue to test twice a weekin line with guidance.

• Staff will continue to reinforce good hygiene for everyone.

• Continue appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.

• Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

• Follow Public Health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

• The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach will continue in place.

Should an outbreak be identified the following steps will be undertaken:

• The preschool will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information

• The preschool will follow their LA guidance for notification

• In collaboration with Public Health and the Preschools Trustees, a decision will be made as to whether the preschool can remain open

•Ofsted will be informed if the preschool is to close

• The LA will be informed if the preschool is to close

• External visits to the preschool will stop until deemed safe

•The preschool COVID Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases .

Scenario 3 – The setting is affected by Local or National measures

The COVID situation is ever changing as are the directed responses.

The setting will work with the local authority to ensure that they implement any Local or National restrictions and guidance. The settings will work alongside and in collaboration with professionals to limit the impact on the children’s education.

This will include working with the following:

• Parents/carers

• Pupils

• Public Health

• Local Authority

• Social Care

• Ofsted

• The Trustees of Kea Preschool.

Should face coverings be recommended, the preschool will amend their Risk assessment in line with the updated guidance:

• Should shielding be reintroduced, those on the shielding list will be supported to follow guidance. If this is a child, then the staff will send home challenges through Tapestry. Parents will be given the choice to participate.

•Shielding staff will be supported to work from home and measures put in place to support their wellbeing.

• Where pupils have EHCPs and cannot attend school a risk assessment will be undertaken to assess if they are safer at home or in school.

Safeguarding:

• It is expected that all settings have a DSL on site, if this is not possible a senior leader will take on the responsibility for coordinating safeguarding.

• Wellbeing calls will be made regularly by the manager, Senior Practitioners and staff of their key children to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

The Preschool have had sufficient measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and these measures will be put in place once again if required by guidance.

Control measures at Kea Preschool

1. *Ensure good hygiene for everyone.*

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice and we ensure that children clean their hands regularly. This is done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important.

1. *Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.*

We maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule, including regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day) with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

1. *Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.*

We ensure the rooms are well ventilated and that there is a comfortable environment. We identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example for a show or play.

We open all windows to draw in fresh air. These can be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated. We have a a CO2 monitor to monitor the air flow within the preschool. During free flow play, external opening doors are used to ensure good ventilation. We balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature in the preschool.

1. *Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.*

Children, staff and other adults follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They DO NOT come into the setting if they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine or they are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19).

If anyone in the setting develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, we will send them home and they are advised to follow public health advice.

Anyone with symptoms, are informed not to use public transport and, wherever possible, will be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a child is awaiting collection, appropriate PPE will be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms will be deep cleaned after the child/adult has left.

1. *Sending your child to preschool.*

If you insist on your child attending the preschool when they have symptoms, we can take the decision to refuse your child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision willbe considered and carefully made in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.