

## Poorly Children: managing children who are sick or infectious

- If a child appears unwell during the day at Woodland Corner, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea\* and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then a member of staff calls the parents/carers and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, top clothing may be removed to make them more comfortable, but children are not undressed or sponged down to cool their temperature. A high temperature should never be ignored, but it is a natural response to infection.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using Fever Scans or other means i.e. ear thermometer.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents/carers are informed.
- Parents/carers are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting will refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents/carers are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents/carers are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play, and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies the trustees if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.

### Notifiable diseases and infection control

If we suspect a child who falls ill whilst in our care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted in the United Kingdom or abroad, immediate medical assessment is required. A member of staff will call 111 and inform parents / carers.

Preventative measures are taken to reduce the risk of an outbreak returning. When an individual shows signs of an infectious illness, they are advised not to attend the setting. If a child is already at the setting, they will be made comfortable in a space away from the other children to rest until they are able to be collected. The importance of thorough handwashing will be reiterated, and the staff will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with children and young people.

In the case of an outbreak of a notifiable disease which has been confirmed by a medical professional, the setting manager will seek further advice from the UKHSA, if not already contacted by them.

The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency(UKHSA), Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

### Infection control for bodily fluids – transmissible viruses

- Viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. Transmittable viruses are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene measures are put in place to protect all staff and children/young people. These include single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing bagged for parents/carers to collect.

- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and designated area mops; cloths used are disposed of.
- Tables, other furniture or toys/resources affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are removed where possible and cleaned using disinfectant. For larger items such as furniture, these must be cleaned immediately with disinfectant.
- All toys/resources are cleaned regularly.

### Handwashing

Handwashing is a crucial infection control measure which reduces the spread of illness. Adults, children and young people should regularly wash their hands, and increase this where there is an infection outbreak.

This should be carried out by all:

- Before meals and snack times
- Before preparation of snack and meals
- After using the toilet
- After nappy or clothing changes
- After the removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves.
- After blowing noses
- Before and after administering medication

**Public Health England** advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands.

### Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

*\*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.*

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis)

***Woodland Corner reserves the right to exclude a child from the setting if a staff member reasonably considers that the child is ill and/or may require medical attention. The manager's decision on this is final.***

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Woodland Corner

Held on (date) 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

Role of signatory (e.g. chairperson etc.)

Jess Brown  
Chairperson

Review date

March 2027