



Sickness, Illness, Infection Control & Exclusion Policy

Last approved: 10 April 2026

Approved by: Nursery Management

Next review:

Sickness and Illness Policy

At Crossley Mill Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at Nursery with their peers
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes
- Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having.

Our Procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parents/carers and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person wherever possible
- We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency for managing specific infectious diseases and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to Nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 24 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions, e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the Nursery Management and is non-negotiable
- See Illness Exclusions Policy (Annex A) for further exclusion periods

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the Nursery that their child has meningitis, the Nursery Management will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The Nursery Manager or selected staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle**
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parents/carers and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

Infection Control Policy

At Crossley Mill Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending (including oral health) through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance¹ which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment and/or medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery.

Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day

- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide freshly cleaned bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this after use
- Follow the Sickness & Illness when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are ill and/or are contagious.

In addition:

- The Nursery Management retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, carers, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the Nursery
- Parents/carers will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the Nursery
- Periodically each room in the Nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the Nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow Government health guidance on any national outbreak of a virus and/or pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The Nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

ANNEX A - Illness Exclusions Policy

Illness / Disease	Minimum Exclusion period from Nursery
Antibiotics prescribed	First day at home
Chickenpox	5-7 days from appearance of rash and when spots have dried over
Conjunctivitis	Keep at home for a minimum one day, longer if eyes keep weeping
Croup	Until breathing and cough return back to normal for that child.
Diarrhoea	48 hours or until stools are solid
Diphtheria	Until declared free from infection from a Dr. (Contact local UKHSA health protection team).
Flu (influenza) or influenza like illness	Until recovered
Gastro-enteritis, dysentery and salmonellosis	Until authorized by a Dr.
Hand Foot & Mouth	5-7 days from appearance of spots and when blisters have dried over
Headlice	Once your child is treated and clear of both lice and eggs.
Hepatitis A	Until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice)
Impetigo	Until the skin has healed
Infective hepatitis	Seven days from the onset of jaundice
Measles	Seven days from appearance of rash and well enough.
Meningococcal infection	Until authorized by Dr.
Meningitis	Until authorized by Dr.
Mumps	7 days from onset of illness and when swelling has subsided
Pediculosis (lice)	Until appropriate treatment has been given
Pertussis (whooping cough)	5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment or 21 days from the onset of paroxysmal cough
Poliomyelitis	Until declared free from infection from a Dr.
Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test.
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured
Ringworm of the body	Occasionally necessary to exclude unless treatment is being given
Rubella (German measles)	Seven days from onset
Scabies	Until appropriate treatment has been given / at a minimum excluded until 24 hours after the first dose of chosen treatment
Scarlett fever and streptococcal infection of the throat	Until appropriate medical treatment has been given and in no case less than 3 days from the start of treatment
Slapped cheek/Fifth disease/Parvovirus B19	Until no temperature / rash has appeared (Note caution with pregnant women)
Temperature (above 38c)	If sent home ill with a high temperature your child must be off for 24 hours or until temperature is not controlled by medication. If children are given paracetamol to control their temperature on the morning of their session, we will not be able to accept them into nursery.
Tonsillitis	Until appropriate medical treatment has been given and in no case for less than 3 days from the start of treatment
Tuberculosis	Until declared free from infection from a Dr.
Typhoid fever	Until declared free from infection from a Dr.
Vomiting	48 hours or until solids are kept down