**Outbreak Management Plan**

This plan is based on the contingency framework for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19, provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

We implement measures in this plan in response to recommendations provided by our Local Authority (LA), the Director of Public Health (DPH), Public Health England (PHE) our local health protection teams or by following government guidance.

These measures will be implemented to help prevent the spread of infection within the Preschool setting, to manage a COVID-19 outbreak or cluster, to react to high COVID-19 infection rates in the community or when all measures in place are still failing to reduce risk and infection.

It is important that everyone complies with the latest Government guidance on Coronavirus. Compassionate leadership is at the heart of offering continued nursery care and we will do everything we can to be honest, open and to communicate with you. There will be a lot of anxieties and we acknowledge that it is okay to feel worried and that COVID-19 and the lockdown has had an impact on everyone. Everyone involved in the day to day running of the Preschool will receive appropriate instruction and training on how to operate safely.

If your child is showing any symptoms of Covid-19 you should be testing your child before they leave the home in the morning, if they have symptoms and are testing negative on a lateral flow then you should continue to isolate until you are able to get a PCR.

If they test positive on a lateral flow they need to isolate for a full 5 days. If you test negative on Day 5 and then test negative on Day 6, 24 hours apart, your child can come out of isolation. If your child still has symptoms they must stay in isolation. You will be asked to send your test results to the preschool before coming back. If your child is still testing positive on day 5 they will need to remain in isolation until you have two consecutive negative tests, 24 hours apart.

If your child has no symptoms and tests negative they can come into the setting, but please be mindful if you have Covid in your household your child will need to show a negative lateral flow before they can come into the setting.

**Measures to prevent the spread of infection**

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been pleased with our Safe Operating Procedures and the adaptations we have made to our everyday practice to ensure we offered, and continue to offer, our staff and children a safe environment. Hygiene and social distancing remain the two key elements of infection prevention and control. We have made the decision to keep the following procedures in place

* Any child, staff member, parent or visitor with coronavirus symptoms must not attend preschool and must isolate at home.
* Children will not be accepted into preschool if they have been given fever reducing medication. Children with temperatures cannot return until they have been 24 hours fever free, without the need of medication to assist, in line with PH DfE guidelines.
* Any person displaying symptoms must not return to preschool until they have completed the required isolation period and/or received a negative coronavirus test, in line with government guidelines.
* Increased cleaning processes remain in place.
* Team members continue to socially distance from each other and during parent handovers.
* All children to wash their hands when coming into the setting. And at transition times throughout the day.
* Staff to continue wearing their masks in the setting.
* Ventilation is a key part of infection control, doors and windows remain open and outdoor play is encouraged. All early year’s settings are equipped with CO2 emission monitors.
* Staff test twice a week.
* Setting Fogged weekly on a Friday evening/Monday morning.

**Management of an Outbreak of COVID-19 in a nursery setting**

When the infection rate of children or staff members reach 10% of the preschool setting over a 14-day period this will be referred to as a COVID-19 outbreak. Little Pippins preschool will take further advice from PHE. Actions may be:

* A more intense deep clean
* Restrictions of people entering the nursery building
* Partial closure of areas in the preschool
* Isolation of identified children or staff members
* Investigation by the LA Health Protection Team

**Increased measures following outbreak.**

* Parents and staff members will wear masks during drop off and collection at nursery.
* Staff members carry out regular Lateral Flow Device testing. Daily
* Parents asked to test their children before they come in to preschool.
* All persons travelling outside of the UK must adhere to instructions and testing in line with the government guidance.

**Management of a Cluster in a nursery setting**

When there are increased infection cases of children or staff members, concentrated in one room group at a preschool setting over a 5-7-day period this will be referred to as a COVID-19 cluster. Little Pippins will take further advice from PHE. The actions we will take are:

* Look at the possible need to close the room group
* we are instructing all staff members connected with a positive case to take daily Lateral Flow tests for 7 days
* Any person contacted by NHS Track and Trace must isolate in accordance with government guidance
* Little pippins will utilise staff teams to ensure legal ratios continue to be met government ratios
* There will remain a Safeguarding Lead, Named First Aider and Named Manager on site at all times.

**Reaction to high infection rates in the local community**

Little Pippins are up to date with infection records. If contacted by DsPH or the LA regarding a high level of infection in the local community, the following actions may be recommended:

* Trips and outings in the area are limited or stopped completely for all children
* Events and social days at the preschool are cancelled
* Visitors are not permitted onto the preschool site unless essential to a child’s development, wellbeing or to manage an essential need (ie. site maintenance). Any visitors that are permitted on site must wear full PPE and give their details to allow little pippins to manage contact tracing if needed.

**Actions following high levels of risk and infection**

Attendance restrictions will only be used as a last resort. Our requests would be presented in the following order:

* If you are able to keep your child home to please do so.
* A request to swap sessions.
* Only vulnerable children and those whose parents are critical workers may attend.
* Only vulnerable children and those with both parents as critical workers may attend.
* Place prioritisation: The guidance confirms that if high levels of workforce absence mean that an early years setting needs to restrict attendance, priority should be given to 1) children of critical workers, and vulnerable children (NB: the guidance notes that some children may be vulnerable who are not officially in statutory systems and that you should seek to support any children who you believe may have challenging circumstances at home); then 2) three- and four-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to reception; and then 3) younger age groups.

Little pippins preschool wish to remain transparent in all proposed actions and advice that we receive from any of the above-mentioned professionals. We thank you for adhering to our Safe Operating Procedures and Risk Assessments and for taking the time to read this Outbreak Management Plan.

If you have any questions you can always contact little pippins on littlepippins-preschool@hotmail.com