

Novel Coronavirus Covid-19

What is Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus. There are many different kinds, and some cause disease. A newly identified coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, has caused a worldwide pandemic of respiratory illness, called COVID-19.

How does the new coronavirus spread?

As of now, researchers know that the new coronavirus is spread through droplets released into the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The droplets generally do not travel more than a few feet, and they fall to the ground (or onto surfaces) in a few seconds — this is why physical distancing is effective in preventing the spread.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result. If you think you have Covid-19 then please call 111 and follow the medical advice you are given by Public Health England

Bubbles

Currently, Fluppet's Montessori is operating as one bubble of 12-16 individuals including children, practitioners, support staff and management. Consumables are delivered to the nursery by a grocery company to prevent a member of staff potentially being exposed whilst conducting company business. We are retaining the right to split our bubble of 12-16 to 2 bubbles of 8, or even 3 bubbles of 5. We shall continue to risk assess and monitor as time goes on. Any changes will result in staff and parents being informed of a change of practice via email or message.

Changes to practice/routine due to Covid-19

1. Parents are no longer to be permitted to enter nursery without special permission from a director.
2. Pick-up and drop-off will be handled outside at the gate, **practitioners will remain 2 metres away from parents/carers at all times.**
3. Children will enter via the front gate, carrying their own bag, **practitioners are not to carry bags or take bags from parents.**
4. On entering the school, children are to hang up their own bags and wash hands, preferably touching a minimal number surfaces on the way to the bathroom.
5. Children are to wash hands, on arrival at school, before and after mealtimes, and before going home.
6. Practitioners are permitted and encouraged to wear P.P.E if they so wish. P.P.E will be provided by the school, however if practitioners do not want to wear P.P.E they are not required to. **We trust our staff to make informed decisions about their own health and safety** in regard to Covid-19.
7. If a member of staff is infected with Covid-19 whilst at work, this is not the responsibility of Fluppet's Montessori School as **members of staff are responsible their own hygiene practices** and the nursery is kept as secure environment as possible.

8. Any child with Covid-19 symptoms is to be **collected immediately** and can only return to nursery after they have had a **negative** Covid-19 test.
9. Any member of staff with Covid-19 symptoms is to be **sent home immediately** and can only return to nursery after they have had a **negative** Covid-19 test.
10. Antibacterial hand gel is placed around the school in strategic areas for use by children and staff.
Staff are responsible for maintaining the highest standard of personal hygiene.
11. Feedback at the end of the day is limited to 2-3 minutes as parents will be queuing in the carpark for collection and maintain social distancing.
12. Parent/teacher or staff/local authority meetings are to be conducted over WhatsApp Video, Zoom, Skype, Teams or suitable alternative.
13. Members of staff are required to have the **NHS Track and Trace App** installed on their mobile device, activate and sign in to all public places that they visit. Parents are urged to do the same.
14. If a member of staff is vulnerable or shielding or someone in their household is vulnerable or shielding; the nursery will do all it can to support you through this difficult time, however there may become a time when returning to work is a necessity. ***If you feel that yourself, or someone else would be put at immediate risk by your returning to work, please discuss this with your line manager.***

In the event of a Covid-19 outbreak

1. In the event of a 'suspected' Covid-19 outbreak - all children or members of staff who are symptomatic or have had close contact with someone symptomatic are required to go home and self-isolate for 14 days and obtain a Covid-19 test from the NHS as soon as possible. Parents will be informed by letter, email and text.
2. If the test result is **negative**, follow normal protocol and children/adults should return to Fluppet's when they are well enough to do so and have obeyed the normal exclusion policy. Parents will be updated by letter, email and text.
3. In the event of a **positive**, the school will shut for 21 days and all students/members of staff will self-isolate for 2 weeks. Parents will be informed by letter, email and text.
4. In the event of a complete school closure, unfortunately Fluppet's Montessori will not be able to reimburse parents for school fees paid in advance.
5. If the school is shut for a prolonged period of time by an external body, such as the local authority. Fluppet's Montessori may ask a small monthly contribution fee from parents to help us with our ongoing financial obligations.

In the event of a full Lockdown

If in the future, Public Health England, decides to lockdown either the United Kingdom nationally or a localised area by county, district or city; a risk assessment would be carried out to ascertain the risk that practitioners would be facing. Moreover, we recognise the responsibility to provide childcare for Key Workers, therefore as long as four children remain in attendance of Fluppet's Montessori, the school shall stay open.

In the event of either a nationalised or localised lockdown, all parents will be emailed and contacted by phone as quickly as possible to explain the risk assessment we have carried out and what exactly our position is. If due to lockdown parents do not wish for their children to attend nursery, fees will be discounted but still due. The fees will be to keep your child's place at nursery and make use of our ongoing support. Management will once again, send out regular emails full of creative ideas for parents to assist in home schooling their children throughout the lockdown. Ideally parents will be uploading their own observations to tapestry and teachers can then feedback to parents about certain activities, what could be done better, how could that activity be extended and made accessible for both learners etc.

Should this happen members of staff will, if possible, be furloughed at 70 or 80 percent and due to our unstable financial situation; Fluppet's Montessori may not be able to raise this salary to 100% of contracted hours. It is of paramount importance that there is a Fluppet's Montessori Nursery still after a second lockdown (if any). Management will continue to liaise with staff and the LEA on a regular basis, offering moral and educational support as well as extra psychological support through Morton Michel's counselling and therapy service. Should the unfortunate time come that the school can no longer support its members of staff without government support, or if government support has been rescinded, unfortunately there is not much the nursery can do. However, we are a long way away from that scenario and let's hope it never comes be.

Sources and Links

Latest news - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

NHS Track and Trace App - <https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Order a Test - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

People at Risk - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/>

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