



Children's Services Early Help and Schools

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Date: 07.12.18

Dear Parent/ Carer/ Guardian,

I am writing to you as your child is currently accessing an early years and childcare setting in Rochdale.

The government has produced guidance that all early years & childcare settings have to implement in order to keep children, families and staff safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance states that any child or staff member displaying symptoms needs to stay at home until a test confirms these are not due to COVID-19, and can only return to their childcare setting once they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

Although it seems like things are returning to normal more than ever now with shops, restaurants and entertainment open again and all work sectors returning the pandemic has not ended, and it's important that measures remain in place to prevent further spread of the virus.

As you will be aware the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of the following:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

The symptoms of fever (high temperature) or a new continuous cough can be caused by many other things as well as COVID-19, and will become more common in the winter months. However the Public Health England definition that this could be a possible COVID-19 case still applies in all cases with these symptoms. This is an agreed precautionary approach based on the information available on the virus and how its spread, and takes account of the possible risks and impact.

For most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness which means your child may seem well and previously in normal circumstances may have been able to return to a childcare setting, but cannot do this under the current guidance. I understand the impact on children, parents, staff and their households who need to self-isolate whilst waiting for a test result can be very significant. However please remember that where an infectious case fails to follow self-isolation advice or be identified, the impact on other children and staff in the setting (and all their households) is much greater.

Please be aware that any suspected case that is not confirmed negative by a test will be treated as a positive case, and as a result the child/person and their household will be asked to isolate. The only possible exception to this is where a person has a fever (and no other of the three COVID-19 symptoms) following receiving a vaccine, which includes regular childhood immunisations.

Vaccines given may cause a fever which usually resolves within 48 hours (or 6 to 11 days following MMR). This is a common, expected reaction and isolation is not required, unless COVID-19 is suspected.

A positive test result for anyone attending a childcare setting will result in all the contacts (including those in the bubble who have been present in the 48 hours leading up to the onset of symptoms) isolating for 14 days. Contacts are not required to go for a test unless they develop symptoms, and a negative test result from any of the contacts will not result in the isolation period being shortened.

To keep everyone safe be aware that:

- Children can only be taken to their setting and picked up by people they live with or another registered childcare provider.
- Please wear a mask while you drop off or collect your child (young children do not need to wear a mask).
- Please get tested if you or your child has any of the symptoms- do not assume these symptoms are due to something else.
- Do not send your child to your early years and childcare setting with any of these symptoms even if they seem well enough to attend.
- Please remember that your child's early years and childcare setting **MUST** contact you to collect your child and take them for a test if your child develops any of the symptoms whilst attending.
- Please respect early years and childcare staff for following the guidance that they are required to and keeping everyone safe, they have no choices other than to do this.
- Please follow the guidance in place it is there for everyone's safety

We fully appreciate that this is understandably a difficult time for all families. It's important that we are all aware of the current requirements of government guidance. If you are a working parent your employer will be aware of the government COVID-19 guidance and legislation, and your childcare setting cannot make exceptions. All early years and childcare settings are working closely with Rochdale Council to ensure that they are COVID-19 compliant. Please understand the fact that they are adhering to guidance, which is their requirement.

If you have any questions about any of the information that has been provided in this letter please telephone 01706 719900 or e-mail family.info@rochdale.gov.uk.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Kay
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Early Help and Schools