

Duchy Preschool & Playgroup, Bradninch			Page 1 of 2	
Document.	017	Policy for Major Illness Outbreak (including flu pandemics)		
Revision	06	Approved By	Katy Taylor	Approval Date 05/01/2026

Scope

This policy applies to all provision for early years aged children, and also – where appropriate – to before and after school provision and walking bus provided by Duchy Pre-school and Playgroup for primary school aged children attending The Duchy School in Bowley Meadow.

Policy

The Duchy Pre-school & Playgroup will endeavour to remain open and operating as normally as possible during a pandemic or serious outbreak of infection.

However, since children are extremely efficient “spreaders” of infection, through droplet infection, between other children and adults, it may be necessary to close the setting for a period of time to significantly reduce the numbers infected.

The advice to close may come from Government, the Health Protection Agency or local authorities, depending on the nature of the infection. We will always seek advice from the Health Protection Agency or Devon County Council before closing due to illness.

Following advice from one of the above agencies and based on the situation, the Managing Supervisor in partnership with the Chair of Trustees will make the decision to close the setting. (This may be due to significant staff absence).

If a child falls ill at the setting, they should, in line with other policies & procedures, be isolated from other children and parents contacted immediately to take them home.

Parents must ensure that the setting has up-to-date information for two additional emergency contacts.

Whilst the setting remains open, all staff will be vigilant in upholding the high standards of health and hygiene and encourage the children to:

- Wash hands with soap and water
- Use tissues then dispose of them appropriately.
- In the case of certain illnesses, it may be judged safer to suspend some activities such as sand play or play dough.
- Staff will increase the level of cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, toys, and furnishings.

If staff or their immediate family show signs of infection the member of staff in question will be sent home immediately to avoid contagion.

Staff and parents should inform the setting if they have close family members who have the illness.

Staff and children will remain away from the setting until at least seven days after exposure or after all signs of the infection have gone.

The Duchy Preschool and Playgroup will take local or national government advice on the length of exclusion related to different major outbreaks.

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Responsibility for periodic review	Facilities Sub-committee
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Document History

Rev	Changes	Date	Approval
00	Previous changes incorporated for AGM	17/05/10	AGM
01	Revised and review for AGM	15/11/11	AGM
02	Addition of scope statement.	02/01/13	PNW
03	Reviewed	18/06/19	GP
04	Appendix added – Diarrhoea and vomiting outbreak – action checklist	10/02/20	Gosia Prout
	Reviewed	14/07/21	Justine Reed
	Reviewed	30/09/22	Justine Reed
05	Appendix updated	02/11/23	Katy Taylor
	Reviewed	21/01/24	Katy Taylor
	Reviewed	21/01/25	Katy Taylor
06	Amended closing information	05/01/26	Katy Taylor

Approved by (signature)	
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