

PLAY SENSE COVID -19 PROTOCOLS: Health and Safety Policy Guidelines

Updated 10 February 2022

These guidelines are to ensure commitment by both the teacher and families enrolled to the implementation of the health and safety guidelines in prevention and reduction of risk of infection of COVID-19. Each teacher will implement the guidelines in a manner that meets the needs of the group and in discussion with parents.

Please note these guidelines are subject to change to be aligned with any new government legislation and suggested protocols at any point.

Daily Screening

1. A parent or guardian accompanying the child at school drop-off / pick up must wear a mask at all times.
2. The teacher will use a contactless thermometer for screening purposes to take temperatures on arrival and if the temperature is elevated above 37.5 degrees then no entry to the premises will be allowed.

Hygiene practices

The teacher will disinfect the classroom space daily including all frequently used touch surfaces and toys. This includes during the day and a deep clean at the end of the school day.

Parents may be asked to provide some hygiene items on their first day at school – please ask your teacher for a list of the required items.

It is not compulsory for children to wear a mask but it is recommended that teachers wear a mask during school time. This is however at group/teacher discretion and can be decided amongst the parents and teacher of the group.

Regular vigilant handwashing to take place - on entry, at toilet time, snack time, outside play as well as intermittently throughout the morning after sensory play activities. No shared wet face cloths will be used.

Ensure sufficient ventilation in the play space such as open windows when indoors.

Snack time options

Each family to supply a prepared snack in a lunchbox for their individual child. Alternatively, weekly rotation and snack-sharing is allowed if it is the preference of the group – this will be decided between the parents & Teacher. Teachers to be vigilant in monitoring water bottles are not shared.

Social distancing practices

The regulatory provision for social distancing of 1 meter for learners in schools has been removed. However, it is still encouraged to play outdoors as much as possible. It is acknowledged that social distancing practices are a challenge with this age group and curriculum.

Drop off and pick up of children

Teacher to meet the children at the gate, ideally no entry of parents or guardians to premises unless otherwise arranged or previously agreed amongst the parents in the group.

Protocol if exposure or confirmed case of COVID within group:

1. Should either the teacher/child present any of the symptoms of COVID-19 they will need to remain home and will need to be cleared by a medical practitioner before returning to school. All families must commit to being transparent regarding any health risks/exposure or feeling unwell and it is expected that in the height of the pandemic families are responsible and if a child or teacher is ill they do not come to school.
2. If a teacher/child or anyone in their household is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case; they will only need to self-isolate for a 7-day period should they show symptoms. If no symptoms they can continue attending school.
3. Should the teacher/child/anyone in the host home have had to self-isolate, they must have no symptoms prior to the return to school.
4. Should either the teacher/child/anyone in the host family present any symptoms of COVID-19 during school they must be separated from others immediately, be collected or leave as soon as is possible. All families within the group to be notified.
5. If the host (be it a family or teacher) cannot host the group for a prolonged period of time owing to self-isolation, a back-up host venue will, if possible, need to be provided by one of the other parents in the group. Alternatively, the group may switch to the online program until the group can resume in the host home.
6. If a teacher tests positive and is asymptomatic she can continue attending school. Should she however have symptoms, she will need to self-isolate for minimum of 7 days and return when she is well enough and no longer displaying symptoms.

Please note that your group might have to close on certain days should a substitute teacher not be available for the duration of your teacher's sick leave. Should this be the case, your teacher may request to use annual paid leave or take unpaid sick leave. If your group does not meet 5 days per week, your teacher may also request to make up for missed days where possible.

Your teacher will discuss and agree with their group on the best way forward should she have to isolate. Your teacher understands the inconvenience and frustration that might result from her being unwell, and your patience and understanding is most appreciated in these unfortunate circumstances.