



Chelmer Village Hall, Chelmer Village Square, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6RF
Telephone: 07901 886488
Registered Charity No. 1054083

4.05 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea* and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, top clothing may be removed to make them more comfortable, but children are not undressed or sponged down to cool their temperature. A high temperature should never be ignored, but it is a natural response to infection.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using Fever Scans or other means i.e. ear thermometer.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents/carers are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies the Committee if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.

Notifiable diseases and infection control

If staff suspect a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted in the United Kingdom or abroad, immediate medical assessment is required the manager or deputy will call 111 and also inform parents/carers

Preventative measures are taken to reduce the risk of an outbreak returning. When an individual shows signs of an infectious illness, they are advised not to attend the setting. If a child is already at the setting, they will be made comfortable in a space away from the other children to rest until they are able to be collected. The importance of thorough handwashing will be reiterated and staff will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with the children.

In the case of an outbreak of a notifiable disease which has been confirmed by a medical professional, the setting manager will seek further advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), if not already contacted by them.

The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

Unwell children upon arrival

On arrival, it is vital that parents/carers inform a member of staff if they notice their child may be showing signs of being unwell. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure their child does not attend the setting if they are not fit to; this is a precautionary measure to prevent other children or staff from becoming ill.

Infection control for bodily fluids – transmissible viruses

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. Transmittable viruses are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene measures are put in place to protect all staff and children/young people. These include:

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Handwashing

Handwashing is a crucial infection control measure which reduces the spread of illness. Adults, children and young people should regularly wash their hands, and increase this where there is an infection outbreak. This should be carried out by all:

- After outside play
- Before snack and lunch
- Before preparation of snacks
- After using the toilet
- After nappy or clothing changes
- After the removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves
- After blowing noses
- Before and after administrating lifesaving medication

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although we would ask parents to keep their child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.

- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.

(www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis)

Further guidance

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance Publication)

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Alliance Publication)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf