



## WHITE LODGE COVID- 19 NURSERY POLICY

This policy outlines practical measures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading at White Lodge. It details the steps we are taking to protect our children, young people and staff, whilst enabling us to provide essential care to our vulnerable client group.

We are all required to be mindful that our procedures are well thought out and balanced to ensure that we do not significantly increase children or young people's anxieties, which will inevitably have a detrimental effect on their mental health and well-being.

### Background

- Young people are likely to become infected with coronavirus (COVID-19) at roughly the same rate as adults, but the infection is usually mild.
- The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, a high temperature (over 38 degrees) and a loss of; or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- For the vast majority of children, young people and staff, coronavirus (COVID-19) will not cause serious illness. (*Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings, 24.3.2020*)

### Keeping up to date with government guidance

- The Senior Staff of White Lodge will review government guidance regularly in particular for; vulnerable young people, guidance on isolation for residential educational settings, residential care and actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak.
- A minimum of weekly contact with Surrey County Council to review our policy and procedures
- The senior staff will update this policy when new guidance is released and distribute to all staff on site in a timely manner.
- Senior Staff will ensure they review the latest guidance, staffing levels, supplies and risk

### How we can minimise the risks of transmission

- We will take active steps to make sure anyone who is feeling ill stays at home by;
  - Asking parents to phone/email the day before if unsure their child and members of the family are well and not showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19
  - Informing parents/carers that if their child becomes ill, they must be able to pick them up promptly or have someone on standby to do so
  - All staff to have been offered vaccinations



- All staff to be tested on a regular basis (and as a minimum either weekly or if longer than this before they are next due to be at work)
- Review our visitors policy
  - Visitor access will be risk assessed on an as needs basis with priority restricted to service needs during times when the buildings have a high level of use
  - Parents to be advised that they should be a distance of 2 metres away from each other when collecting their young people and dropping off.
  - One parent/ carer advised to drop off / pick up their child through the pathways building following a one way system.
- Regular hygiene
  - Carers and Nursery staff will supervise children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual, in particular before meals, on entering and exiting the building and before and after any personal care needs with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. Nursery staff will support children who are unable to do that themselves by using clean cloths, soap and water.
  - Posters will be displayed around White Lodge on correct handwashing techniques and carers will actively teach young people the elements of good general hand hygiene
- Social distancing
  - Where reasonably practical, staff should keep a 2 metre distance, however this cannot be of the detriment to the care of the children and young people. We will utilise all 3 buildings at White Lodge to facilitate activities that encourage social distancing.
- Increased cleaning activity
  - Cleaning will follow every activity ensuring all hard surfaces, door handles, toilets, key pads and bathing facilities will be cleaned.

### **Wearing personal protective equipment**

If neither the care worker nor the individual receiving care and support is symptomatic, then no personal protective equipment is required above and beyond our normal good hygiene practices except for masks when caring out personal hygiene.

New PPE must be used for each episode of care. It is essential that used PPE is stored securely within disposable yellow rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and placed outside in the clinical waste bin.

### **If a child or young person has symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at White Lodge**

If a child or young person is showing signs of having COVID-19, staff should contact the parent/carers immediately and ask them to collect their child.

We are not expected to have dedicated isolation facilities at White Lodge, but should implement isolation precautions when someone at White Lodge displays symptoms of COVID-19 in the same way that they would operate if an individual had influenza.

Whilst they are waiting for the parent/carers, the child or young person should be isolated in a separate room accompanied by a staff member that will wear a full PPE to avoid cross-contamination.



## **Laundry**

Do not shake dirty laundry before washing. This minimises the possibility of dispersing virus through the air. Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## **If a member of staff is concerned they have COVID-19**

If a member of staff is concerned they have COVID-19, government guidelines must be followed.

## **If there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case**

- Staff will follow Government guidelines and inform a member of the senior management team, who will take appropriate action.
- If there is a confirmed positive case, in addition to the above, OFSTED and Surrey County Council must be informed