



PETER'S PATCH
DAY NURSERY

Due to the ever-changing government guidelines, Peter's Patch will consult www.nidirect.gov.uk before making a decision on how to respond to a Covid 19 related situation. We will endeavour to comply with and enforce the current guidelines as outlined by the Government and our Social Work Team.

Reviewed: 26/1/22

Covid-19 Reassurance Policy

Peter's Patch is responsible for caring for all children including vulnerable children, and the children of key workers critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response (subject to change) We will continue to liaise with our local Trust Early Years Social Services Teams and the Education Authority during the current pandemic to agree the provision needed locally to support the needs of our setting. Risks to children, staff and families presented by a global pandemic will be kept to a minimum.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 IS A NEW STRAIN OF CORONAVIRUS THAT HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN HUMANS. It was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and has caused an outbreak which has spread and still is continuing to do so throughout the world.

COVID-19 VIRUS IS CLOSELY RELATED TO A BAT CORONAVIRUS.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

There is so much information currently unknown about this particular virus. A vaccine has been made that protects against COVID-19. This vaccine is given in order of priority to selected persons but as more become available this will change and will be filtered through the community.

How is the virus spread?

Human coronaviruses are spread from someone infected with the virus through contaminated droplets spread by coughing or sneezing, or by contact of contaminated hands, surfaces or objects.

What are the symptoms?

Infected persons may have a temperature over 37.8°C and a new continuous cough. Symptoms usually start to appear within 5 to 6 days after exposure, although this is not always the case and may be from as early as 2 days until 14 days. Due to this people are being asked to self-isolate for 10 days. Most cases of Covid-19 have been spread from one person to another to whom they have been in contact with. A small number of people may be unaware they already have the virus, their symptoms may not have developed and they could have potentially passed it without realising.

There is clear evidence that there is a very low rate of severe disease in children compared to adults even if they contract the virus. The percentage of symptomatic cases requiring hospitalisation is estimated to be 0.1 % for children aged 0-9 and 0.3% among those aged 10-19. Most of these children



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

make a rapid recovery. There is also clear evidence from many studies that the great majority of children and teenagers who catch COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. There is also reasonable evidence that young children have a significantly lower rate of infection than adults (they are less likely to catch it). It is important for parents and for child care workers to accept that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission. We at Peter's patch have put safety measures in place to operate safely and effectively with minimum risk to our children and staff.

How long does the COVID-19 infection last?

If infected it may vary from person to person. In some cases where a person has a mild case it may only be a few days. If a person has an underlying health issue i.e. Asthma (respiratory condition) recovery may take a lot longer and in severe cases can be potentially fatal.

Distinguishing the difference between COVID-19 and the common cold

If a person is showing symptoms of COVID-19 they may have a new continuous cough, a high temperature and/or loss of taste and smell. If a person has cold like symptoms i.e. runny nose, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, a cough which isn't continuous they do not need to self-isolate.

What is the difference between COVID-19 and the flu?

COVID-19 and influenza (flu) can be very similar and often but not always display the same symptoms. They both cause a high temperature and respiratory symptoms i.e. coughing. They can range from mild to severe and sometimes can be fatal.

Both viruses are transmitted in the same way through coughing, sneezing, contaminated hands, surfaces and objects. Therefore Peter's Patch adheres to good hygiene practices at all times.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

Handwashing – All staff and children to wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds frequently or after coming into contact with any of the above mentioned and/or use hand sanitiser to rapidly disinfect hands.

Cough into your elbow or sneeze into a tissue and immediately dispose tissue into the bins provided at the sneeze stations located on each floor in our setting.

Both viruses have similar symptoms. The percentage of people with severe and critical disease seems to be higher with COVID-19 than the flu. Whilst most people have mild symptoms, approximately 15% of people have severe infections and 5% require hospitalisation in the Intensive Care Unit.

Influenza has a shorter incubation time (the time from infection to appearance of symptoms) than COVID-19. This means that the flu can spread faster than COVID-19.

How long does COVID-19 last on surfaces?

According to the World Health Organisation, it is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 lasts on surfaces, but it seems to show similarities to other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19) may stay on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary due to temperatures of surfaces or air humidity.

How is COVID-19 diagnosed?

If diagnosed with COVID-19 evidence of the virus will be in respiratory samples such as swabs from the back of the nose and throat or fluid taken from the lungs.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

What is the definition of the term close contact?

The definition of a close contact is a person who has had the following contact with a confirmed case from 2 days before the first day of symptoms and 10 days after:

- Lives in the same household
- Has been within 1 metre of the case and had face-to-face contact including – being coughed on, or having a face-to-face conversation, has had skin-to-skin contact or has been within 2 metres for more than 15 mins or has shared a small enclosed space like a car.

Short periods of contact do not therefore present a significant risk to staff or children where face-to-face conversation is avoided.

How can you prevent the spread of the virus?

- Soap and water and regular handwashing for at least 20 seconds is the best way of staying safe. Handwashing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside).
- If a child displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should not come to the setting, or should be sent home with their parents/carers if symptoms arise during the day. If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to our designated area where they can be isolated. Staff will clean in line with routine cleaning guidance after this.
- Some children and young people with special educational needs may be unable to follow social distancing guidelines or require personal care support. In these circumstances, staff need to increase their level of self-protection, such as minimising close contact (where appropriate), cleaning frequently touched surfaces and carrying out more frequent handwashing.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

- Staff should thoroughly wash their clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting as they may have come into contact with a contaminated person or area without realising.
- Where healthcare and certain personal care support is delivered within our setting (particularly special schools), then additional measures may apply: we will clean and disinfect equipment, toys and surfaces more regularly. This includes keyboards, mouse, tables, chairs, door handles, light switches, bannisters, stair gates etc. A lot of our rooms will have loose parts and natural resources, these will be cleaned daily so our children still have the enjoyment of using these resources.
- Staff, children, young people and families should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds more frequently than normal, including on arrival at the setting, before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing.
- Staff will supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water (or hand sanitiser if soap is not available/feasible in the particular situation) and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. Bins at sneeze stations for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- We encourage young children to learn and practice these habits through visuals, games, songs and repetition.
- Some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities may require additional support in following public health advice, or may find frequent handwashing distressing. Staff will know where this is likely to be the case, and how they can best support individual children and young people.
- It is fine to wear jewellery as normal, provided handwashing guidance is being followed.
- If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in the setting they will be sent home and advised to follow



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

the home isolation advice on the PHA website. They must get a PCR test done. They can return if the test is negative. If the test is positive they must self-isolate for 10 days from their positive test result.

- Children who are close contacts do not have to self-isolate. Children aged between 5-17 are advised to get a PCR test done. Any Staff members who are close contacts and are not double vaccinated must self-isolate for 10 days. If staff are double vaccinated they do not have to self-isolate and can continue to work.
- If a member of staff has helped someone who has taken unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.
- PPE will be worn during nappy changes and disposed off in nappy bin.
- Staff should dispose of contaminated waste by putting them into a double bag and then into sealed bins provided.
- Peter's Patch needs parents/carers the need to follow the advice on coronavirus (COVID-19), including anyone in the household who develops a fever or a new, continuous cough must take a PCR test and self-isolate until the results come back. Every morning be vigilant about signs of a temperature. Anyone who has a temperature of 37.8°C or over must not return to the setting until 48 hours clear of a temperature. Other people in household do not need to self-isolate if a member of their household has tested positive but they must until their test result comes back. If they are double vaccinated or if they are a child they must do a PCR test on day 2 and day 8 from when the person in their household tested positive. They can return to nursery in between days. They only need to self-isolate if they are displaying symptoms themselves until their PCR test result comes back. This will determine whether they need to continue to self-isolate or not.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

- To prevent cross-contamination parents are advised to only bring in essential items into the setting.
- Parents **MUST** label all their children's belongings.
- Staff to use their own lockers for their personal belongings.
- Interactions between staff is minimised in our staff room. Only 3 members at a time and a distance of 2 metres apart. Staff in our setting test themselves regularly using lateral flow tests. This must be carried out in the morning before starting work. If the lateral flow test is positive staff must not come into work and must get a PCR test done.
- Staff comply with physical distancing in our setting, including parents at drop-off and pick-up times. Staff must remain at their cars and if walking stand back from the front entrance and must continue to wear face masks at all times.
- Childcare employers should regularly check (and share with any pregnant staff) the new www.ni-maternity.com website, which offers specific advice in relation to pregnancy and incorporates the latest COVID-19 advice for pregnant women. The guidance includes a link to a separate piece of helpful guidance available at <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/>. All pregnant employees, regardless of gestation, require a work based risk assessment. UK Guidance for employees who are pregnant including information on occupational risk assessments can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees>.

Protection and cleanliness in Peter's Patch

In Peter's Patch good household cleaning duties are carried out to prevent spread of the virus.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

All carpets and rugs are cleaned by our professional carpet cleaner regularly leaving them clean and hygienic.

Staff to disinfect their own lunchbox/items before putting in fridge.

One toilet and wash hand basin per 10 children over the age of 2 years.

During COVID-19 babies, Timmy Tiptoes/Flopsy bunnies and Snug/littlenutkins/Pre-school, After-school and Forest school will remain as one pod in consistent groups according to child staff ratios.

Intimate care

The Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines regarding children have been developed to safeguard children and staff. They apply to everyone involved in the intimate care of children.

Intimate care plans have been reviewed in the light of Covid-19 in order to ensure they follow the best possible guidance, they give advice on appropriate PPE e.g. gloves, Aprons, masks or shields, how to follow social distancing measures and spraying changing mats with anti-bacterial spray after every use.

Staff follow the correct procedures in order to maximise their protection and minimise the risks involved.

We ensure that staff are provided with the equipment, including PPE, necessary to provide intimate care in a safe manner. Taking all reasonable steps to minimise risk. PPE will be worn during nappy changes and disposed off in nappy bin.

Staff should dispose of contaminated waste by putting them into a double bag and then into sealed bins provided.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

A staff member should never be behind a closed door alone with a child. All doors must remain open whilst protecting the child's dignity at the same time.

Increase cleaning of surfaces in rooms, including desks and handles, and within toilet blocks and nappy changing rooms, adhering to guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings. Flexible timetables will be used for toileting.

visiting the toilet one after the other with flexible timetables.

How can I protect myself?

The best way to protect yourself is the same as you would against any respiratory infection. Practice good hygiene by:

- Making sure to clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like Symptoms.
- Making sure you stay home if you are sick.

The scientific advice indicates that educational/daycare staff do not require personal protective equipment – this is needed by medical and care professionals providing specific close contact care or procedures that create airborne risk– such as suctioning and physiotherapy for anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) and is displaying symptoms.

If providing this care to someone with the virus and displaying symptoms, PPE is needed and will be supplied by Peter's Patch.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

The Education Authority can provide emergency supplies to our Pre-school that find themselves short of supplies. The Education Authority will be able to provide either a collection or delivery service if schools need supplies. **Individual schools will need to contact the Education Authority's COVID-19 operations centre 8am to 8pm. The number is: 028 38368186.**

What does the term shielding mean?

Shielding is a measure to protect people, including children, who are at very high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of certain underlying health conditions. The aim of shielding is to minimise interaction between these individuals and others to protect them from coming into contact with the virus that causes COVID-19. People with these serious underlying health conditions are strongly advised to vigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe.

What if a parent raises a concern about taking a sick child to their GP or hospital during the pandemic?

The PHA and the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) are urging parents and caregivers to be vigilant of other childhood illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While it is essential to be aware of and follow the guidance associated with COVID-19, it is also important to ensure that parents trust their instinct.

Parents should be advised that if a child is unwell and needs medical attention, they should continue to seek help.

While many children will be receiving appropriate care and treatment at home, parents should be advised not to put off bringing their children for medical attention because they are concerned about overloading the service or afraid that their child may come into contact with COVID-19 in a healthcare setting.

Parents should be made aware that robust infection control procedures are in place in Health and Social Care (HSC) settings to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

What staff do if a parent contacts the setting to advise that a child who recently attended has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

General interventions may include increased cleaning activity to reduce risk of retention of virus on hard surfaces (including play equipment), and keeping property properly ventilated by opening windows whenever safe and appropriate.

We will remind to parents/caregivers the need to follow the advice on coronavirus (COVID-19), including the infected person entering 10 days of self-isolation if they have a fever or a new, continuous cough or loss of taste and smell. If they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 they must get a PCR test done on day 2 and day 8 of when the infected person tested positive but if they are double vaccinated or a child they do not have to self-isolate. Regrettably there may be some staff members and parents who do not wish to comply with the Public Health guidance in relation to Covid-19 including choosing not to follow the advice to get tested or self-isolate. The N.I Executive has rolled out a Test and Trace and Protect strategy designed to control the spread of COVID-19 and all symptomatic staff and children are expected to obtain a test for COVID-19 and should self-isolate along with the relevant household members while awaiting the result.

How can we work in partnership with parents/caregivers to keep them informed?

Parents/caregivers will be a major source of comfort and reassurance to their children. It will be important for Peter's Patch to keep parents/caregivers informed of what our setting is doing to protect their children including how they are preventing the spread of respiratory infections and what parents can do at home (e.g. reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory measures, cleaning and increased reassurance).

Parents/caregivers will be the ones who will make decisions about keeping their children home if they are sick and as such, open and frequent communication to parents will be important in ensuring sick children are not sent to the setting.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

Establish a plan for sharing information and guidelines with parents/caregivers that includes:

- A system to check with parents/caregivers daily on the status of their children when children are dropped off at the setting.
- Maintaining up-to-date email addresses and home, work, and mobile phone numbers from parents and guardians of children at Peter's Patch so that you can reach them at all times and testing that methods of communication work.
- Providing parents/caregivers with information on COVID-19 symptoms, transmission, prevention, and when to seek medical attention.
- Encouraging parents/caregivers to share the information with their children as appropriate.
- Communicating with parents/caregivers that children should stay at home if sick or if someone in the household has symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) until their test result comes back.
- Requiring parents to advise the childcare provider if they, their child or any other family member with whom they live or have had contact has tested positive for COVID-19.

How do we know the people who have had COVID-19 are no longer infectious?

People with confirmed COVID-19 infection, stay in isolation under the care of medical specialists until they are no longer experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Before they are released from isolation, they have tests to see if they still have COVID-19 and the specialist care team assesses they are no longer infectious. Once they are discharged, they have a follow up assessment by the medical team to make sure they remain well.

What is the meaning of the term infection control?

Infection control is the name given to policies and procedures intended to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Everyone in a childcare setting is at risk of spreading infection if they do not take sensible precautions. Those who



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

come into contact with bodily fluids, such as urine, faeces, vomit or sputum, are at most risk. Such substances may contain micro-organisms, such as bacteria and viruses. Also at risk of spreading infection are those involved in food preparation and handling soiled bedding. All bedding will be placed in each child's own drawstring bag and washed at 60°C.

To combat the spread of such diseases, staff will ensure that the environment is kept in a clean and hygienic state and that staff comply with effective hygiene practice.

Reporting outbreaks of Notifiable Disease

An outbreak is defined as “**having two or more children or staff with an infection, caused by the same microorganism, at the same time in the same place**”. However, a single case of a serious disease may also require an outbreak response, e.g. *E. coli* O157, diphtheria or measles. We will report as normal to the PHA and the Trust Early Years teams any serious or unusual illness, including:

- *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) (also called *E. coli* VTEC or *E.coli* 0157) infection
- food poisoning
- hepatitis
- measles, mumps, rubella (also called German measles)
- meningitis
- tuberculosis
- typhoid
- whooping cough (also called pertussis)
- COVID-19

Outbreaks: If we suspect an outbreak we will contact the Trust Early Years Team.

What additional infection control measures should I be putting in place during the pandemic?



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

Peter's Patch will promote and facilitate best infection-control practice, including the following:

- Safely using cleaners and disinfectants on surfaces and objects, this includes
Wearing gloves;
- Ensuring cleaners and disinfectants are used in a manner that does not endanger childcare workers or children in our setting.
- After a child or a staff member uses the toilet, the lid should be put down first, before flushing. Afterwards staff will always wash their own and the child's hands.

Is there a cure or vaccine?

Yes a vaccines have been made that protects against COVID-19.

Our Aim

I know many people will be wondering how Peter's Patch could ever be compatible with social distancing when we focus on child led learning and interaction, together and with the help and guidance from Early Years Organisation, Local Social Services Team, Education Authority and the Local Government we will work towards this whilst taking the welfare of all children into consideration whilst providing the highest standards of care.

1. At an earlier stage of the pandemic it was recommended 12 children in each pod this has now changed, instead we organise children and staff in consistent constituted groups in line with the Department of Health Minimum Standards for Day care.
2. A central part of our approach is to focus on child led learning which nurtures children's independence and confidence. Our children are given greater freedoms and responsibilities which encourages them to take responsibility for their actions and be considerate to others. The focus on independence of mind has also stood our children in good stead during lockdown from the messages we have received from parents and we know that the posts we have put on social media are a



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

direct result of some of the contact we have had from parents promoting independence whilst at home.

3. From an early age, our children are encouraged to practice good hygiene. The children are encouraged to hang up their own coats and bags. Prior to COVID-19, children were encouraged to participate in buffet snacks and setting up the tables for meals, this has temporarily ceased and replaced with adults setting the table and giving snacks to ensure multiple hands aren't touching the cutlery. They are responsible for washing their hands and faces with adult assistance as necessary before and after eating, going to the toilet or playing outside or with art materials. As the Covid-19 crisis unfolded in March we increased our emphasis on good hygiene further with more frequent hand washing and our children will be able to continue these practices and adopt further measures as necessary.
4. We are passionate for outdoor learning and we are committed to integrating nature into our children's daily learning. Our forest school has been loved by children who attend, we love our natural woodland environments and are glad to be back in the forest. Our children use the outdoor environments at our buildings daily and enjoy activities such as gardening, sports, and games, but they are also encouraged to bring the indoors out and to use these areas as an extension to their learning. An increased focus on outdoor time will be relatively seamless.
5. Many visitors to our nursery are surprised by the atmosphere of calm they find. We practice walking around the room, sharing materials and making an apology if needed. Our children have a lot of real life items from pottery cups and saucers in their home corners to pots and pans and glass water dispensers, our children have to carefully navigate the room and the items are rarely knocked over. This greater self awareness and self control helps our children navigate their own spatial awareness.

Recently the Department for Education (in England) published an overview of scientific advice and information on coronavirus (Covid-19). This shows that:

- There is a high degree of confidence that the severity of the disease in children is lower than in adults; There is a moderate to high degree of confidence that the susceptibility to clinical disease of younger children



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

(up to age 13) is lower than adults. Children, generally, are asymptomatic and do not appear to be spreaders.

Social Distancing/ room layout

Social distancing means reducing the number of close physical and social contact. practising good hygiene with social distancing slows the spread of the pandemic down.

Social distancing will be hard to maintain especially with younger children. All rooms in the setting will be reviewed to adhere with guidelines.

Children will sleep in their own room on beds provided and spaced apart, this includes 18 months- 24 months and aged 2-3 year olds. 0-18 month children will sleep in cots provided in the cot room. If we have to open up a second pod divides will then be put in place.

Children are encouraged to hang up their own coats and bags.

All staff to sanitise equipment with children having story time ensuring that the surfaces that children and staff are touching such as toys, books, desks, chairs, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters are cleaned more regularly than normal.

Children must wash their hands thoroughly before engaging in sand play and after using sand. Sand has a high value and therefore it may be used if:

- There are individual trays for each child and sand is sprayed with antibacterial spray.
- The sand tray is cleaned thoroughly on the outside between uses.
- Dry sand is used rather than wet sand.

Water play can also be used. The water should have added soap before use to enhance cleaning ability and promote infection control.

Each child has there own individual bag of play-dough with their name on it to avoid cross contamination.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

Play pods are being put in place within the setting to help maintain social distancing this is explained below.

Play pods

A play pod is being described as a small group of children and adults, the purpose is to limit the number of people that the children encounter and to limit staff contact with each other. A Play pod will use their own resources and will not share any resource from any other pod (room). Depending on the size of the pod a relief staff member may be necessary to ensure the staff get breaks and lunches, this will be limited as much as possible.

In exceptional circumstances pods can overlap but when this is the case a risk assessment will be carried out. When necessary written parental consent will be sought.

Play pods must remain positive with little to no talking about the virus unless in a positive matter with the children.

Outdoor play is in timed sessions. Only resources from pods to be brought outside and used by children. All outdoor toys/equipment will be used.

Sinks have been added to our gardens for all hand washing

If a child or staff member has tested positive for the virus and is self-isolating all children and staff from that particular pod or any children who have been in direct contact with that pod must go home immediately and self isolate for 10 days. If either a staff member or staff shows symptoms they must get tested.

If a child or staff member has a temperature 37.8 degrees or above they cannot return until 48 hours after the onset of the temperature as they need to be symptom free even if they have been tested and had a negative result.

Staff

Staff will remain in one play pod with the same staff and children. Only three staff will be allowed in the staff room at any one time and items need to be washed down after use.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

If a staff member becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or high temperature over 37.8°C they need to go home immediately and get tested. If the result is positive, they need to self-isolate for 10 days.

If a staff member has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, has symptoms or tests positive themselves, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

Staff in pods won't change during the day, if staff become unwell and have to leave then the staff member will be replaced with a back-up from our staff team.

A single use staff member will be allocated to greet the grocery delivery driver whilst socially distancing, bring groceries to kitchen to unpack, put away and wipe down. They will cover a single room's breaks and lunches and also staff holidays and will go in and out of pods as needed but will socially distance themselves from staff and children so not to transmit when going in and out of pods.

Staff covering lunches will work for a staff member who takes ill. Management will take over relevant staff duties for that single member until a relief member comes in to work for the person who has taken ill.

Management will also go in and out of the pods as needed but will socially distance themselves from staff and children so not to transmit when going in and out of pods.

Management are in charge of the building so if a child or staff member takes ill and has to be taken to hospital a nominated supervisor will act in Management's place as they are unable to leave Peter's Patch.

Three staff where possible will be in each room to ensure staff can remain consistent throughout the day, staff will work full days.

Staff can speak to management in the office if needed. Management take into consideration staff's mental health and well-being and promote awareness



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

during the COVID-19 outbreak. We will offer support to staff and they can refer to well-being leaflet which offers a counselling service.

If staff share a car with people who are not part of their household, they should share with the same people and with the minimum number of people at any one time. Good ventilation (keeping the car windows open and facing away from each other may help to reduce the risk of transmission.)

Staff are not allowed to share a car to eat their lunch unless they have travelled to work together. Working within the same pod does not mean you can share a car as you can maintain distance within a pod from other staff but not in a car. Being within a car if someone tests positive you would be deemed a close contact. By not sharing a car you will be helping to reduce risk of transmission.

Management will regularly check and share with any pregnant staff the new www.ni-maternity.com website, which offers specific advice in relation to pregnancy and incorporates the latest COVID-19 advice for pregnant Staff who are pregnant women. A Risk Assessment will also be carried out.

Social distancing is not recommended for under 8-year olds however we will still use the below measures:

- All staff and children wash their hands for 20 seconds frequently
- All staff need to be available to help children who may not be able to wash their own hands properly
- Increased cleaning
- Suspending the use of soft toys
- Staff will maintain social distancing with each other
- Ensuring each pod has their own resources to use
- Both Baby rooms will have their own changing units and supplies in their own room as mixing pods is not allowed.

Children over 8 years old are encouraged to stay 1 metre apart and ways that we can encourage this are as follows:

- Reducing the number of children at one table



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

- Non-contact sport
- Buffet snacks will no longer take place

Our staff will use a friendly approach without making the children feel excluded or isolated.

While social distancing is necessary, we must ensure that our children, parents and staff wellbeing is considered so please don't hesitate to contact us if any concerns arise.

Social distancing within Peter's patch with very young children may be harder to maintain. Staff should implement the above measures as far as they are able, whilst ensuring children are safe and well cared for within their settings.

We have restricted visitors to our setting unless your child attends five days a week and needs to see an outside professional e.g. speech therapist. Social distancing rules apply at all times.

In Peter's Patch the following is carried out:

- Make sure anyone who is feeling ill stays at home.
- Ensure all staff and children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently, they are encouraged not to touch their face, while using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and using bins for tissue waste. If children or young people have trouble washing their hands we will help them.
- Inform parents, carers and communities about the measures we are taking and get their help to implement them.
- Increase cleaning of surfaces in rooms, including desks and handles, and within toilet blocks and nappy changing rooms, adhering to guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings. Flexible timetables will be used for toileting.
- For children and young people with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), work with HSC Trusts as well as with parents and carers to



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

decide how best to continue supporting these children and young people to stay healthy.

- Do not gather at entrances or in the garden, and model social distancing so that children learn good practice.
 - visiting the toilet one after the other with flexible timetables, avoiding unnecessary staff gatherings. Social distancing measures should also be in place when providing meals.
 - Clear messaging to children attending the setting about the purpose of social distancing and personal hygiene particularly important.
 - We acknowledge that social distancing for our children may be hard to maintain. Staff will implement the recommended measures as far as they are able, whilst ensuring children are safe and well cared for.
 - Staff will pay particular attention to handwashing before and after supporting children who need help with toileting or eating, as well as avoiding touching their own face whilst at work. Staff will want to use age and developmentally appropriate ways to encourage children to follow social distancing, hand-washing and other guidance, including through games, songs and stories, visual supports and videos. We encourage parents/carers to reinforce these messages at home, by asking them to remind their children.
 - As much as possible, Peter's Patch will seek to prevent the sharing of food, drink, utensils, equipment and toys. Equipment, toys and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.
 - Stationery is not to be shared between rooms, brought home or brought into the setting.

Arrival/ departure

At Peter's Patch we have a drop off and collection point (subject to change) We think this is the safest and friendliest approach to maintain social distancing.

One parent is to drive up to the door where a staff member will greet you. Please wait in your car or a safe area if walking if there is another parent at the door and come over when it is safe to do so. Social distancing must be adhered to.



PETER'S PATCH DAY NURSERY

Temperatures will be checked on arrival, this will be a quick process.

When coming to collect your child/children phone our new direct line system so the staff can get your child ready to see you at the collection point.

Settling in and supporting children returning to Peter's Patch

We understand that this is a very daunting time for parents and their children as we have had little to no contact outside our families. One way we think will ease this process is by holding settling days for children to come in. A settling in booklet will be drawn up and sent to each family before this commences.

We understand parents are going to be anxious about dropping their child off at the front door. To help this process we are increasing My Nursery Pal communication and we have new phone systems installed, this means parents can call their child's room to speak directly to a staff member.

Fire drills will now be carried out separately and at different intervals so that only one pod evacuates at a time. Staff will be notified prior to the evacuation a few days before.

Policies in general will stay the same with a risk assessment put in place associated with Covid-19 in relation to aspect of change under the current Coronavirus pandemic

We have looked at all Implications of COVID-19 on Health and Safety at Work Statutory Provisions

Last updated

26/1/2022



PETER'S PATCH
DAY NURSERY



PETER'S PATCH
DAY NURSERY