

# Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

Our aim at Wood St Nursery is to promote the good health of all children attending. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a quiet home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers. Also to minimise infection, we ask that children do not attend nursery if they are unwell.

## Local Health Protection Team

PHE North East and North Central London Health Protection Team,  
Ground Floor South Wing,  
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EC4Y 8JX

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tel: 020 3837 7084

## Our procedures

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, including any temperature at or over 38.0°C, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible
- To protect other children and staff in the nursery, we follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (Health Protection In Schools and other childcare facilities) on exclusion times for specific illnesses. This includes whilst symptomatic with vomiting and/or diarrhoea and for 48 hours after the last symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean all equipment and resources on a regular basis to reduce the spread of contagious infections
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning
- We may exclude a child on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) if we have concerns about the child being subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- We make information about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their

child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair, and to keep the child at home until they have been treated

### **Contacting the local Health Protection Team (HPT)**

The nursery manager will contact the HPT if:

1. they suspect an outbreak of infectious disease. This may be defined as:
  - an incident in which two or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place
  - a greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for the place and time where the outbreak has occurred

For example:

- 2 or more cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting which are in the same classroom, shared communal areas or taking part in the same activities
  - higher than usual number of people diagnosed with scabies
  - higher than usual number of people diagnosed with scarlet fever
  - two or more cases of measles at the school or other childcare setting
2. To report any serious or unusual illness particularly for:
    - Escherichia coli (VTEC) (also called E.coli 0157) or E coli VTEC infection
    - food poisoning
    - hepatitis
    - measles, mumps, rubella (rubella is also called German measles)
    - meningitis
    - tuberculosis
    - typhoid
    - whooping cough (also called pertussis)

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter

- Remain calm at all times. Other children may need lots of cuddles and reassurance too

<b>This policy was reviewed on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019</b>	<b>EK Oliver</b>

