



Health Protection and Respiratory Illness Policy (Including COVID-19)

Updated in line with EYFS 2025, UKHSA guidance 2025, and KCSIE 2025.

At Ringle Rainbow Nursery, we are committed to maintaining high standards of health, hygiene, and infection control to protect children, staff, and families from the spread of illness, including respiratory infections such as COVID-19, flu, and RSV. This policy replaces the previous standalone COVID-19 procedures and reflects current public health advice and the EYFS 2025 framework.

General Health Protection Measures

- Children, staff, and visitors must not attend the nursery if they are unwell, particularly if they have a high temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, or respiratory symptoms.
- We promote good hand hygiene, use of tissues for coughs/sneezes, and proper disposal followed by hand washing (the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach).
- High-touch surfaces, toys, and shared spaces are cleaned regularly using appropriate disinfectant.
- Rooms are ventilated throughout the day to reduce the transmission of airborne illness.
- PPE is available for staff when dealing with bodily fluids or when supporting children with symptoms.

COVID-19 Specific Measures (as of 2025)

COVID-19 is now managed in line with other respiratory illnesses. There is no longer a requirement to isolate for 7 days. Children or staff with mild symptoms may attend if they feel well enough, but those with a high temperature or who are visibly unwell should stay home until recovered. Staff and parents are encouraged to follow NHS and UKHSA guidance. Routine testing is not required. We will continue to follow any new guidance issued by the local authority or the UKHSA in the event of a local outbreak or change in policy.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff must follow this policy and report any infectious symptoms or outbreaks to the manager. The manager will liaise with the local Health Protection Team if thresholds for reportable illnesses are met. Staff will also continue to support children in understanding hygiene routines in an age-appropriate and inclusive manner.

EYFS and Safeguarding Compliance

The nursery monitors patterns of illness-related absence as part of its safeguarding and attendance procedures. Repeated absences or concerning patterns will be escalated to the DSL.

Children with medical vulnerabilities or EHCPs will have individual care plans where necessary. These are shared with parents and updated in partnership with external professionals as needed.



Parent Communication

Parents will be kept informed of any outbreaks, policy updates, or changes to infection control practices via BabysDays, notices, or email. We encourage open dialogue and will provide guidance when children are unwell.

Data Protection and BabysDays

Illness records are logged on BabysDays in line with our Data Protection Policy and KCSIE 2025 guidance on secure recordkeeping.

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By: P Reidy