



Pandemic Flu Policy

Sprouts Childcare recognises the importance of advanced planning in order to maintain services and limit the spread of pandemic flu within our setting.

Flu is a viral infection, spread from person to person by close contact. Symptoms may include:

- Sudden fever Limb and joint pain
- Sudden cough Diarrhoea or stomach upset
- Headache Sore throat
- Tiredness Runny nose
- Chills Sneezing
- Aching muscles Loss of appetite

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be pandemic flu while at Sprouts will be isolated from the other children until the child can be collected by his or her parents/carers. Sprouts will remain open, but parents and staff will be informed. Any children or staff who are experiencing symptoms of pandemic flu should stay away from the Club until all symptoms have passed and they feel well, in line with government guidelines.

Infection control

The flu virus is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance (one metre or less).
- Direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Touching objects (eg door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands. The virus can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading the flu virus at Sprouts by:

- Regular handwashing
- Minimising contact between our hands and mouth/nose
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing; using a tissue when possible, and disposing of the tissue promptly and carefully (bag it and bin it)
- Encouraging the children at the Club to follow the guidance above
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant symptoms, or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work.

At Sprouts we will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition, we will:

- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available within the Club
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Clean hard surfaces (eg door handles) with sanitizer regularly
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.

Closure

The latest scientific advice is that closing individual settings is of limited benefit in stopping the spread of the disease. However, there may be some occasions when we will must consider temporarily closing the Club because we have too few unaffected staff to run sessions safely. If this occurs the manager will contact Children's services for further support and guidance.

The Club will also have to close if advised to do so by the local authority or the school, in the interest of safeguarding the children in our care.

In the event of closure, the manager will notify parents or carers as soon as possible. The manager will also inform relevant agencies and OFSTED.

Advance planning

In preparation for dealing with a pandemic disease, Sprouts will ask parents/carers to ensure that all contact details are up to date.

Sprouts will regularly update its procedures and risk assessments regarding pandemic diseases, in line with the latest guidance from DfE and the local authority and will inform parents and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.

Useful contacts

Childcare Services: 0300 555 1384

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

PHE Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Protection Team (South East): 0344 2253861