Childhood Illness Policy

At Abbeymead Under 5’s, we promote the good health of children attending playgroup and take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.

This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell at playgroup are treated sensitively and with respect. It also helps us to help us to protect other children and staff from illnesses and the spread of infection.

If a child requires medicine, we will obtain information about the child’s needs to this (see Administration of Medication Policy)

The Manager is not allowed to admit any children onto the premises who appear to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness or disease. Abbeymead Under 5’s follows the guidance from the Health Protection Agency, however we do reserve the right to refuse children into nursery if they have an illness that is contagious and will have an impact on the well-being of the rest of the children and staff.

Please do not bring children who are unwell into playgroup as they will be sent home upon arrival. This includes Children that have had Calpol before entering the premises as this could mask symptoms of an illness or infectious diseases.

Parents/carers are required to inform the playgroup where they can be reached in the event of an accident/sudden illness. When parents are co-parenting or parallel parenting, both parents will be called simultaneously, However, on occasions it may be impossible to contact a parent/carer in an emergency, we will make every effort to contact the next named person and so on until we have made contact, failing this, parents/carers are required to provide the Manager with signed permission for the setting to act in their absence.

If a child becomes seriously ill or injured during his/her attendance at playgroup, the setting reserves the right to call for emergency assistance and, if necessary, remove him/her to hospital and give permission for emergency treatment to be administered. If we must take your child to hospital because of an illness or accident, we will do our utmost to inform you immediately (using the details on your Application Form). It is therefore vital that this information is kept up to date and that you inform us of your timetable/whereabouts. Please inform the Manager of any changes to these details as soon as possible. Please inform us as soon as possible if your child will be absent for a long period due to illness.

Local Authority regulations state that parents/carers are required to give the following information to the Manager: name, address, and date of birth of each child; name, home address and place of work with respective telephone numbers of the parents/carers of each child. We ask that a copy of the parent/carers current timetable should be left with the Manager to ensure that contact can be made in an emergency); name, address and telephone number of each child’s doctor and the state of immunisation and infectious diseases suffered by each child.

All accidents are reported in an Accident Report which is kept in the Office.

Parents/carers will be notified of any accidents via an accident/ incident form, these are evaluated at the end of each month. Parents / careers are required to sign a copy of the report upon handover and will be given a copy to keep.

Please ensure you taken follow precautions: –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Infection  | Exclusion Period  | Comments  |
| Athlete’s foot | None | Individuals should not be barefoot at their setting (for example in changing areas) and should not share towels, socks, or shoes with others. |
| Chickenpox | At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over. | Pregnant staff contacts should consult with their GP or midwife. |
| Cold sores (herpes simplex) | None | Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. |
| Conjunctivitis | Playgroup will advise to seek medical advice for treatment to stop the spread  | If an outbreak or cluster occurs, seek advice. |
| Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19) | Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell.Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test. | Individuals with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting. |
| Diarrhoea and vomiting | Individuals can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped. | If a particular cause of the diarrhoea and vomiting is identified, there may be additional exclusion advice, for example E. coli STEC and hep A. |
| Diphtheria | Exclusion is essential.Always consult with your [UKHSA HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team). | Preventable by vaccination. For toxigenic Diphtheria, only family contacts must be excluded until cleared to return by [your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team). |
| Flu (influenza) or influenza like illness | Until recovered | Report outbreaks to [your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team). |
| Glandular fever | None | [Contact your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some |
| Hand foot and mouth | Please see separate policy  | [Contact your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some |
| Head lice | None |  |
| Hepatitis A | Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice). | In an outbreak of hepatitis A, [your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) will advise on control measures. |
| Hepatitis B, C, HIV | None | Hepatitis B and C and HIV are blood borne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact. |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment. | Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period. |
| Measles | 4 days from onset of rash and well enough. | Promote MMR for all individuals, including staff. Pregnant staff contacts should seek prompt advice from their GP or midwife. |
| Meningococcal meningitis or septicaemia | Until recovered | Meningitis ACWY and B are preventable by vaccination. |
| Meningitis due to other bacteria | Until recovered  | Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. Your [UKHSA HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) will advise on any action needed. |
| Meningitis viral | Until recovered  | Milder illness than bacterial meningitis. Siblings and other close contacts of a case need not be excluded. |
| MRSA | None | Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise spread.Contact your [UKHSA HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) for more information. |
| Mumps | 5 days after onset of swelling | Preventable by vaccination with 2 doses of MMR. Promote MMR for all individuals, including staff. |
| Ringworm | Not usually required | Treatment is needed. |
| Rubella\* (German measles) | 5 days from onset of rash | Preventable by vaccination with 2 doses of MMR. |
| Scabies | Can return after first treatment. | Household and close contacts require treatment at the same time. |
| Scarlet fever | Exclude until 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment. | Individuals who decline treatment with antibiotics should be excluded until resolution of symptoms. In the event of 2 or more suspected cases, please [contact your UKHSA HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team). |
| Slapped cheek/Fifth disease/Parvovirus B19 | None (once rash has developed) | regnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife. |
| Threadworms | None | Treatment recommended for child and household. |
| Tonsillitis | None | There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need or respond to an antibiotic treatment. |
| Tuberculosis (TB) | Until at least 2 weeks after the start of effective antibiotic treatment (if pulmonary TB.Exclusion not required for non-pulmonary or latent TB infection. | Only pulmonary (lung) TB is infectious to others, needs close, prolonged contact to spread.[Your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) will organise any contact tracing. |
| Warts and verrucae | None | Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gyms and changing rooms. |
| Whooping cough (pertussis) | 2 days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics | After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. [Your local HPT](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) will organise any contact tracing. |

If your child is unwell, please read the following guidance and seek treatment where necessary or keep your child off playgroup. (Please call playgroup to advise length of absence).

There are no exceptions to the exclusion period and any parent attempting to return their child to playgroup will be advised as such. If a parent persists and leaves their child within the exclusion period, the nursery will contact the HPA and Local Authority who will notify Social Services.

Measures of high temperature
If you suspect a child has a temperature the following steps must be followed:

Take the child’s temperature using the head scanner / in ear thermometer.

Notify parent of temperature

Record the temperature on a monitoring form.

Attempt to reduce body temperature slowly – removing excess layers of clothing, opening a window, etc.

Ensure the child is drinking water.

As a rule, a temperature in children under 5 over 38oC is a fever.

The child’s temperature should be taken in regular intervals if displaying signs of being unwell. If the temperature is 38oC or above, parents will be asked to come and collect the child.

High temperatures can be extremely dangerous and cause convulsions.

In emergency cases the manager will seek advice from a medical professional (111 or pharmacist) to authorise administering emergency Calpol to reduce a high fever when children become very poorly, this is dependent of the parents’ given permission and agreeing to collect their child immediately.

Transporting children to hospital- Procedure

If a child becomes extremely unwell and, in an emergency, it is our procedure to call for an ambulance immediately. Parents will be contacted straight away, and arrangements will be made to meet the parents at the hospital or at the playgroup if they are close enough to reach the setting in time.

If a parent is not able to get to the playgroup in time for the ambulance to transport the child to hospital, a senior management will accompany the child and collect registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication, and any other items the child may need.

Febrile Convulsions, anaphylactic shock and other fit or seizure

If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and the same steps taken as above.

Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that may require resuscitation measures. Administration of epinephrine – auto-injector (EPI PEN) may be necessary.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

Sickness and diarrhoea are some of the easiest illnesses to spread between children and adults, the exclusion period must be at least 48 hours after the LAST bought NOT from the onset.

If children or staff have intolerances or allergies such as milk or to egg and have diarrhoea or sickness due to eating something they should not have, this will still be treated with the same exclusion period and children and staff will be refused entry to the setting as an extra precaution to prevent the risk of an outbreak.

When children who have intolerance’s have been advised to reintroduce certain foods using the food ladders, this will need to be confirmed in writing from the GP or a Dietitian. Parents/ careers are encouraged to keep staff informed when they are starting the food ladders with at least 1 weeks’ notice and then maintain regular updates on how this is affecting the child. The staff at
Abbeymead Under 5’s will also document any changes to bowel movements or the child’s health within the setting during this time. If the child attends the setting during an outbreak and has sickness or diarrhoea and staff have not been made aware with at least 1 weeks’ notice of foods being reintroduced the 48-exclusion period will need to be followed.

COVID-19

It is the parent / career’s responsibility to be open and honest with the setting and keep your child at home if they have tested positive. The child must be kept off for 3 days from the test date.