



Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Procedures at Sallywags

We continually review the Government guidance regarding COVID-19 and Early Years settings to make sure we're aware of any updates and are following the most recent guidance. There have been a few changes to reflect the current procedures, and we've made sure the links here refer to the most recent Government guidance.

We hope this will give you the information you need, but please do contact us if there is anything else you want to ask.

Protective measures we are taking

Guidelines regarding control measures have been simplified as follows:

We should:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

We cannot guarantee to protect your child from Coronavirus, but the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance to allow us to operate as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

The daily procedures we have in place:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does to self-isolate (see below re: When you do not need to self-isolate). That includes children and staff who work here.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- The updated Actions guidance (29/11/2021) states that: "All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, **irrespective of vaccination status and age**, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and will be asked to book a PCR test." It adds that these close contacts "will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category".



- The self-isolation rules for all other close contacts (i.e. of Covid cases that have not been identified as the Omicron variant) remain unchanged. (see below)

When you do not need to self-isolate

- You're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
 - You're under 18 years 6 months old
 - You're taking part or have taken part in a Covid-19 vaccine trial
 - You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
-
- We are still asking parents not to enter the setting at drop off/pick up. If you wish to speak privately to Lorraine or Jenny or Pennie please ask, and this can be arranged also you might find this easier to do this by phone on 07552238793 during setting hours (you may need to leave a message and they will phone you back). We also ask that parents/carers physically distance (1m+) from staff when dropping off and collecting their children. **While cases remain relatively high within Torridge and with the identification of the new Omicron variant Nationally, staff will continue to wear a face covering at drop off and pick up, and although this is no longer mandatory we invite parents to do the same. We shall continue to use individual signing in sheets for the time being.**
 - Cleaning our hands more often than usual (including on arrival). We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
 - Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
 - Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including tabletops, door handles and play equipment.
 - We know that children in the early years cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. We will encourage them to distance where appropriate e.g. at register or snack times.
 - We have reduced the number of things available in the room as everything needs to be cleaned at the end of the day. We put out a variety of activities each day to keep things as "normal" as possible.
 - Transmission is far lower outdoors, so we are encouraged to make the most of outdoor space. As the weather gets colder and wetter this may prove more difficult, but we will continue to encourage the children to play outside and to make use of the play area when we can. Please ensure your child as appropriate footwear and warm clothing available.
 - We will provide a simple snack mid-morning. If your child is staying for lunch, we ask that you provide a packed lunch with a drink that the children can manage themselves as far as possible; we will of course help if needed but will strive to keep this to a minimum.



- Storing furniture and equipment that is not in use and/or easily cleaned to make the setting as easy as possible to clean regularly.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the setting unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing (please speak to staff about this).

What if I book a place for my child but they won't be coming in?

- In line with usual procedure, you must still let us know as soon as possible if your child will not be attending that day. If we are expecting your child and they do not arrive, we will contact you. We are required to complete a monthly register for Devon County Council.

What happens if I need more childcare or want to attend somewhere else as well?

- Please ask us if we have capacity to take your child for extra sessions if you need it. We cannot promise we will be able to accommodate but we will try. Funding can be split between two providers if you need to attend somewhere else as well, but please speak to us about this. (A notice period may apply if you wish to reduce the number of sessions your child attends in a half term).

My child has a medical condition

Please let us know and follow the latest government guidelines.

What if my child falls ill during session?

If a child becomes unwell during session, we will follow Government guidance as follows:

- contact a parent and ask for the child to be collected immediately
- move the child to an area at least 2 metres away from other people
- reassure and supervise the child (the adult will wear PPE if a distance of 2 metres is not possible)
- Call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured and administer first aid where necessary

Testing

If a child develops coronavirus symptoms, the parent/carer is asked to arrange a test for their child, and to notify us immediately of the test result.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

If there is a confirmed case at Scallywags, parents will be notified.



Are staff being tested regularly?

All staff test twice a week using Lateral Flow Device kits.

If a member of staff tests positive, they will not attend the setting however this is no longer likely to result in the closure of the setting unless we are unable to staff the setting sufficiently or the case is identified as an Omicron Variant. We will be reporting our results to NHS Test and Trace and will, of course, follow their guidance should a positive test occur. As with any home testing, if the LFD indicates a positive result, this needs to be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test result is negative, then the member of staff will return to the setting. If the PCR test is positive, we will follow our positive test reporting procedure.

Please see our new **Outbreak Management Plan** if 2 or more positive cases are reported within 14 days. [Covid 19 Outbreak Management Plan Scallywags Pre-School November 2021.docx](#)

Parents can also choose to test regularly using LFD kits. Scallywags do not need to know if parents are taking their own tests, but obviously if you or a household member tests positive, you would need to inform us that you are self-isolating and if your child will or will not be attending Scallywags.

Does my child have to wear a face covering?

No, children are not expected to wear face coverings. The use of face coverings for children is discouraged for safety reasons.

Will staff be wearing face coverings in the setting?

The Government guidance states that teachers and children at early years settings do not need to wear masks, although staff may choose to do so. The staff would have to wear a mask, and other PPE, while helping a child who develops symptoms of Coronavirus during the session.

Childcare Bubbles and Support Bubbles

Childcare bubbles are no longer advised – this advice was withdrawn on 19th July 21

Further information for parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

We may need to make changes at short notice but will try to keep you informed as quickly as possible.



Thank you for your continued support and patience during these challenging times. We have all had to adapt to new ways of doing things, and we keep learning as we go. If you have any worries or questions, please let us know and we will try our best to help.