



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 not to attend Sallywags. That includes children who attend the setting, parents/carers and the staff who work here. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is no longer required and there is no longer a legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate

- From Monday 28th February we are inviting parents to come into the setting to drop off and sign in their children. The table will be placed inside the double doors and there will be a single signing in sheet. If anyone prefers to continue to stay outside while dropping off please feel free to do so, staff will bring the signing in sheet outside to allow this. Our staff will no longer be required to wear face masks at drop off and pick up times unless they choose to do so.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Transmission is far lower outdoors, so we are encouraged to make the most of outdoor space. As the weather gets colder and wetter (and windy!) 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 it 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.

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.

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 a session, we will follow Government guidance as follows:

- contact a parent and ask for the child to be collected as soon immediately
- reassure and supervise the child away from the other occupants of the setting
- Call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured and administer first aid where necessary



What if my child or a member of staff has Coronavirus Symptoms or tests positive for Coronavirus?

Changes to measures and guidance for managing COVID-19 in education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April 2022

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

Children who are unwell should not be attending Sallywags in any circumstances.

<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 we are notified of a case at Sallywags, parents will be notified.

Are staff being tested regularly?

Updated advice says that from 1st April regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting. Staff will only test if they have symptoms.

If a member of staff tests positive, they will not attend the setting until 5 days have passed (in line with Govt advice from 1st April) **however this is no longer likely to result in the closure of the setting unless we are unable to staff the setting sufficiently.**

The government considers COVID-19 to be an exceptional circumstance in which the staff-to-child ratios set out in the EYFS can temporarily be changed, if necessary, for example to respond to COVID-related workforce absences. Sallywags currently operates at a lower staff:child ratio for 3 & 4 year olds than the legal requirement. e.g. Sallywags operates on 1

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staff member to 8 children (3 & 4 year olds) whereas the legal requirement is 1:6. (for 2 year olds the legal requirement is 1:4, which we do operate within). Where staff are required to isolate due to Covid-19 and are therefore not available to work, consideration will be given to temporarily changing ratios, where it is safe to do so, to allow the setting to remain open. Staff qualification requirements and basic minimum staffing levels (2) will always be adhered to and if this is not possible the setting will be required to close temporarily.

We will be reporting our results to NHS Test and Trace. If the LFD indicates a positive result, there is no longer a requirement to take a PCR Test except in certain circumstances.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please see our new **Outbreak Management Plan** for more information on how we will respond to positive cases within the setting

Parents can also choose to test regularly using LFD kits. Scallywags do not need to know if parents are taking their own tests or what the results are, but obviously you need to inform us if your child will not be attending Scallywags for any reason.

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 will wear a mask, and other PPE, while helping a child who develops symptoms of Coronavirus during the session.

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.