

# Barnack Home from Home

## Coronavirus / COVID-19 Policy

Barnack Home from Home recognises the importance of advanced planning in order to maintain services and limit the spread of the new coronavirus, known as COVID-19, within our setting.

COVID-19 is a viral infection similar to flu, spread from person to person by close contact. It typically causes fever and a dry cough, and in some cases may progress to viral pneumonia which cannot be treated by antibiotics. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

Cough	Sore throat
Fever	Tiredness
Difficulty breathing	

The initial symptoms are not dissimilar to other colds and flu-type illnesses, so the key question is whether the patient has also travelled to a high risk area in the last two weeks, or been in contact with a person who has.

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be COVID-19 while at the Club will be isolated from the other children by at least two metres until the child can be collected by his or her parents. Most suspected cases turn out to be negative so the Club will remain open unless or until advised otherwise by the local Health Protection Team, but parents and staff will be informed, especially those in high-risk groups.

Should any children or staff experience symptoms of COVID-19 they should stay away from the Club until all symptoms have passed and they test negative for the virus. In this case, any booked sessions must still be paid for.

If any staff or children have returned from a high risk area they will be asked to stay away from the Club for 14 days from their date of return. Again, any booked sessions must still be paid for.

### Infection control

Like the common cold and other flu viruses, COVID-19 is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance.
- 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. Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 at the Club by:

- Regular handwashing by staff and children
- 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)
- Cleaning hard surfaces (eg door handles, light-switches, tables, etc) with sanitizer frequently

- 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 Barnack Home from Home we will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition we will:

- Display posters and information to promote infection control
- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available within the Club
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.

## **Closure**

The latest 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 have to consider temporarily closing the Club because we have too few unaffected staff to run sessions safely. If this occurs the manager will contact Peterborough Early Years & Childcare Services for guidance and support.

The Club will also have to close if advised to do so by the local authority 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 the Peterborough Early Years & Childcare services as well as other relevant parties, eg feeder schools, other users of shared premises, etc. The manager will also notify Ofsted of the closure.

In the event of a forced closure, any booked sessions will still need to be paid for in order to continue being able to offer childcare in the future.

## **Advance planning**

In preparation for dealing with COVID-19, the Club will ensure that all contact details for staff, children and parents are up to date.

We will prepare letters of notification for parents and staff, so that they can be distributed immediately if an outbreak occurs.

We will endeavour to build a bank of relief or supply staff who are able to provide cover should staffing levels fall below the required legal minimums. Any relief staff will be DBS checked at the time of joining our team, so that they are legally able to work with children should the situation arise.

**The Club will regularly update its information regarding COVID-19, by checking the latest guidance from Public Health England and the local authority and will inform parents and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.**

## **Useful contacts**

Early Years or Childcare Service: 01733 747474

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

Health Protection Team (HPT): 0300 303 8537

This policy was adopted by: Barnack Home from Home CIC	Date:9 March 2020
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To be reviewed: 9 March 2023	Signed: Niamh Holman
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Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017):  
Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.44].