

Benefits

Being outdoors in nature reduces stress, keeps immunity strong, builds resilience and a sense of community and keeps us physically healthy.

The FSA believes that due to the nature of Forest School sessions and facilitating the play needs of children and young people, the most appropriate precaution which can be taken is to create and maintain learner ‘bubbles’. This means that equipment, resources and the environment can be shared within each ‘bubble’ without significant risk.

Children can be infected with CoV-2, and become ill with COVID-19. However, they appear to be less susceptible to infection than adults and their symptoms are generally milder. Early indications (from the W.H.O) suggest that there is less transmission from children to adults

Government Guidance taken from gov.uk 23/05/2020	Example of action to be taken in order to comply (edit and complete for your setting)	Can this be met in your setting?	Additional Notes	How will this information be relayed to staff/parents/learners?
In some cases, it may be necessary for providers to introduce a temporary cap on numbers to ensure that safety is prioritised.		✓		
Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges.		✓		
Cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.	<p>EXAMPLE: New tippy taps. Supervised hand washing: on arrival, before and after eating, after sneezing or coughing.</p> <p>Bins for tissues (? & paper towels?) available and emptied throughout the day.</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">THE FSA DOES NOT RECOMMEND THE USE OF ALCOHOL HAND GEL DUE TO THE ACCUMULATION OF MUD AND DIRT RENDERING IT INEFFECTIVE</p>	✓		

<p>Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.</p>		<p>✓</p>		
<p>Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.</p> <p>Staff will wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished.</p> <p>Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: Priority surfaces will be: all areas of tippy taps, bathroom door/handles/toilet seat, kitchen table top, cabin door handle.</p> <p>Second tier: front gate, wheelbarrow handles, saw and tool handles, storage box handles & lids</p> <p>Priority areas will be cleaned every 3 hours. 9am, 12pm, 3pm</p> <p>Second tier surfaces will be cleaned after each use.</p>	<p>✓</p>		
<p>Minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)</p> <p>"Early years and primary children cannot be expected to remain 2m away from each other and staff."</p> <p>"Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so." (1m from 4th July 2020)</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: Leaders will not <u>PLAN</u> for physical contact games e.g. hunters & rabbits, chasing, tagging, sardines, den building, rough and tumble play, group cooking, role play which might involve contact.</p>	<p>✓</p>		

<p>The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. (1m from 4th July 2020)</p>		✓		
<p>Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible.</p>		✓		
<p>Classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher</p>		✓		
<p>It is also sensible to rearrange classrooms and workshops with sitting positions 2 metres apart. (1 metre from 4th July 2020)</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: Eating around large circle to maintain 2m distancing. It is suggested you maintain 2m whilst eating because of higher risk of transmission. Bags to be stored.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Setting up a craft work space 1m apart from other workspaces.</p>	✓		
<p>Consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors</p>		✓		
<p>Plan parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: Parents advised to maintain 2m (1m from 4th July 2020) at drop off. Parents asked not to go through the gates.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Children walk to the gate at 2:30 pm. Parents asked to park 1 car at a time in the layby immediately outside the gate. Parents will be given staggered pick up times.</p>	✓		

<p>Remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)</p> <p>” limit the amount of shared resources that are taken home and limit exchange of take-home resources between children, young people and staff by seeking to prevent the sharing of stationery and other equipment where possible.</p> <p>Shared materials and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently although practical lessons can go ahead if equipment can be cleaned thoroughly and the classroom or other learning environment is occupied by the same children or young people in one day, or properly cleaned between cohorts.”</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: No communal teddies.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Hammocks labelled by family and will remain in place untouched by other children or leaders.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Blankets, if used, will be labelled with a family name and washed each evening.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Rope equipment removed. Ropes used for craft will stay with a single individual. No ropes to be used for group building/craft activities</p>	<p>✓</p>		
<p>Tell children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection)</p>	<p>From Gov.uk:</p> <p>“What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting? When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.</p> <p>Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.</p> <p>As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in</p>	<p>✓</p>		

	<p>the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.</p> <p>Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus. Educational and childcare settings should reiterate to parents the need to follow the standard national advice on the kind of symptoms to look out for that might be due to coronavirus, and where to get further advice. If anyone in the household develops a fever or a new continuous cough they are advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance (which states that the ill person should remain in isolation for 7 days and the rest of the household in isolation for 14 days).</p> <p>When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5"</p>			
<p>Tell parents that if their child needs to be accompanied to the education or childcare setting, only one parent should attend.</p>		<p>✓</p>		

Tell parents and young people their allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so, including protocols for minimising adult to adult contact (for example, which entrance to use)		✓		
Make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)		✓		
Ensure parents and young people are aware of recommendations on transport to and from education or childcare setting (including avoiding peak times). Read the Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers.		✓		
Ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days.	EXAMPLE: Groups will operate on a Wednesday and Thursday. The same children will attend both days. EXAMPLE: Children would need to be asked to attend no other settings/schools/outdoor gatherings to avoid mixing 'social bubbles'	✓		
Ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days, recognising for secondary and college settings there will be some subject specialist rotation of staff.	EXAMPLE: Same children must attend all sessions.	✓		
There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting.		✓		

<p>Ensure that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time.</p>		✓		
<p>Use outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff</p>		✓		
<p>Limit the amount of shared resources that are taken home and limit exchange of take-home resources between children, young people and staff.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: No resources or craft products can be taken home.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Bags and personal items will be kept away from others.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: No tools can be brought from home. Only company tools will be used and where possible they will be labelled to each individual.</p>	✓		
<p>Facemasks should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of coronavirus.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: Staff will have masks, aprons & gloves. If symptoms become present then the staff will put on PPE, child will be moved to an isolated area and their parents will be asked to collect the child ASAP.</p>	✓		
<p>Ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days.</p> <p>Ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days, recognising for secondary and college settings there will be some subject specialist rotation of staff.</p>				

Questions & Prompts:

- **Are you keeping up to date with guidance for your locality/region/nation/country?**
- **Do you need to stagger arrival and departure times?**
- **How will your entry and exit points be managed to protect staff, children and parents?**
- **Have you allowed for time to change clothes?**
- **Can you make the hygiene reminders entertaining/fun?**
- **What will your hand washing procedures be?**
- **How, if at all, will you combat any skin damage caused by repeated hand washing?**
- **How will you navigate dressing & toileting with younger children?**
- **How will equipment be transported?**
- **What routines will you need to put in place for cleaning/ resting (72hours) /'bubbling' equipment?**
- **What precautions will you take with products made in sessions?**

- **Do you need any physical or visual barrier in place?**
- **Does any seating need to be rearranged?**
- **How will you avoid bottle necks, congestion and queuing?**

Do you need any visual reminders around the site?

You may wish to communicate the steps you have taken to limit infection with a poster as shown here: <https://youthworksupport.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Five-steps-poster-.pdf>