Covid-19 Policy

Due to the continued spread of Covid-19 (Corona virus) I have created this policy to advise parents of the procedures I will be implementing. Covid-19 is classed as a pandemic and therefore some changes need to be applied to protect your children, other children and their families, and myself and my family.

Please note, as the advice is changing as the spread of the virus progresses, this policy will be updated as the guidelines change. I am following advice given by the government, local authorities, CIW and the NHS.

**Current regulations with regards to Childcare**

Currently there is no restriction to my usual ratio of children. I will continue to work with the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government and CIW with regards to socially distancing and keeping the setting Covid Secure.

Stephen is now permanently working from home. He spends most of the day though in a different part of the house from the children. Thomas is still living at home. Christopher is at College (and is still partly working online from home as well as attending some classes face to face) and Eleanor is at school. All three will be keeping socially distant from the children as much as possible.

I will, therefore, continue to be mainly working from the playroom, outside in the garden and we have begun to take trips to outdoor places such as the beach and the woods. We have also started to meet up with other childminders in these places but maintain social distancing as much as possible. We have begun to attend an Actif session in Borth Community Hall run by the Family Centre. This is a ticket only event, all adults are wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

**Arriving / departing from my house**

To minimise the risk at handover I will need to keep 2m distance from yourselves. I will be operating a doorstep policy, meaning that adults will not be allowed into my home. If you phone/text me when you arrive, I will open the door and then your child will be able to walk carrying their own bags. I have arranged your drop off/pick up times so that only one family will be dropping off/collecting at once.

**Pick up / drop off elsewhere**

If required I will come to collect / drop off your child at your house. When I get to your house, I will message you to let you know I am outside.

**Social Distancing**

During the pandemic I have realised that it is very difficult to social distance a small child. They want cuddles and reassurance. They also want to play with their friends. Therefore, I will not be expecting the children to socially distance from myself, Bethan or each other. I have, however, taken these following measures:

1. Increased my cleaning routine, wiping surfaces with antiviral wipes throughout the day as well as cleaning thoroughly every evening.
2. Making the most of my outdoor space.
3. PPE – I have gloves, aprons, face masks and face shields for use if a child in my care comes down with symptoms. I also use gloves for nappy changing.

**Handwashing**

I will continue to encourage all children to wash their hands upon arrival, prior to eating, before they leave the house, when we return to the house after being outside, after each cough and where needed in between. I have hand sanitiser to use when we are out and unable to get to a sink. I will continue to use single use towels (flannels) which when used are placed into the bin under the sink and I then wash them when the supply is running low.

**Sickness policy**

My sickness policy still stands. Please remember that there are other illnesses that children can still get and the exclusion periods for these still stand even if a child has a negative PCR result.

The Welsh Government updated the [**Childcare and Playwork COVID-19 Guidance**](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTEwMDguNDcwNzU5ODEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2dvdi53YWxlcy9ndWlkYW5jZS1jaGlsZGNhcmUtYW5kLXBsYXl3b3JrLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzLWh0bWwifQ.stAcP3y4-uLby3yc2701o2fgwKMm7CZW2TxcT40OysQ/s/814548809/br/113598629488-l) **on 8th October 2021. The main change that affects the families using my setting is:**

* Advice has been added on the changes to the testing of under 5’s announced during the week running up to 8th October.

The advice outlines:

* + It is no longer recommended that children under 5 undertake COVID-19 tests on day 2 and 8 if identified as a close contact.
  + It is no longer recommended that children under 5 with COVID-19 symptoms undertake a test unless directed to do so by a doctor or if parents believe a test is absolutely necessary and in the best interests of the child.
  + However, symptomatic children under 5 should not attend a childcare setting until their symptoms have resolved.

Taking the advice from the Childcare and Playwork COVID-19 Guidance, my procedure will be:

1. If there is a positive case in a child’s household, then the child cannot attend my setting for 10 days.
2. If a child comes down with Covid-19 symptoms (the list of symptoms is below), then they should stay at home for at least 10 days. I will not request a PCR test to be done, however, the child must be well before returning. If you do decide to do a PCR test the results need to be negative (and the child needs to be well) before returning.

**Symptoms** – The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

* New continuous cough and/or
* High temperature and/or
* Loss of taste/smell

The wider range of symptoms include:

* Fatigue
* Muscle ache or pain
* Sore throat
* Headache
* Runny nose
* Nausea
* Vomiting
* Diarrhoea.

Please follow the guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As with all other illnesses and exclusion periods I will be following the same rules for myself and my family. Should Bethan become ill or show any of the symptoms, she will self-isolate at her house. I will remain open; however, as I need Bethan to remain in ratio, I will have to ask some families to keep their children at home. I will discuss this with you all should this situation arise.

I have written a scenario table for my setting which covers what should happen if various people in the setting have symptoms.

Please note, that if any of my household members have symptoms and are waiting for PCR results or if any of them are positive, I cannot allow anyone into the house, so therefore will have to close even if I am still well.

**Fees**

Obviously, money is a worry for all of us during this time. Therefore, I thought clarification would be helpful.

My policy on fees is that if I am open but your child is off for any reason, I charge full fees. If I am closed for any reason, then no fees are due. Therefore, if I must close my setting due to either myself or a member of my household having symptoms I will not be charging. If your child is off, then I will charge full fees.

Please feel free to message, phone, email or discuss face to face any questions you might have. With your help, cooperation and understanding, we will hopefully be able to get through this worrying time with minimal disruption.

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