

The Den



Pandemic Covid/Flu Policy

The Den recognises the importance of advanced planning in order to maintain services and limit the spread of pandemic Covid/Flu within our setting.

Covid/Flu is a viral infection, spread from person to person by close contact. Symptoms may include:

Sudden fever	Limb and joint pain
Sudden cough	Diarrhoea or stomach upset
Headache	Sore throat
Tiredness	Runny nose
Chills	Sneezing
Loss of taste	Loss of smell
Aching muscles	Loss of appetite

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be pandemic Covid/Flu whilst at The Den will be isolated from the other children until the child can be collected by his or her parents. The Den will remain open but parents and staff will be informed, especially those in high-risk groups.

Any children or staff who are experiencing symptoms of pandemic Covid/Flu should stay away from The Den until all symptoms have passed and they feel well.

Infection control

The Covid/Flu virus is spread by:

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

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading the Covid/Flu virus at The Den by:

- Regular handwashing
- 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)
- Encouraging the children at The Den 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 The Den 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 Den
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically
- Clean hard surfaces (eg door handles) with sanitizer regularly
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.

Closure

The latest scientific 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 Den because we have too few unaffected staff to run sessions safely. If this occurs the manager will contact Solihull Local Authority for further support and guidance.

The Den 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 local childcare information service as well as other relevant parties, eg feeder schools, other users of shared premises, etc. The manager will also notify Ofsted of the closure.

Planning

In preparation for dealing with a pandemic disease, The Den 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 as soon as 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 Den will regularly update its information regarding pandemic diseases, by checking the latest guidance from DfE and the local authority and will inform parents and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.

Useful contacts

Solihull Safeguarding Children's board 0121 788 4333
Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

This policy was adopted by: The Den	Date: May 2023
To be reviewed: June 2024	Signed: Pauline Barritt Manager

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Health [3.44]*.

Also complies with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)