

## **Wildlings**

### **Covid policy**



#### **Policy statement**

Wildlings aims to adhere to the government guidance and advice from the Department of education. At Wildlings we will continue to aim to keep our community as safe as possible and minimise the risk of children and staff attending from contracting Coronavirus.

#### **‘Actions for Early Years providers during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak’**

Available at:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

#### **‘Contingency framework: education and childcare settings’**

Available at:

[http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011704/20210817\\_Contingency\\_Framework\\_FINAL.pdf](http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf)

#### **Ensuring good hygiene for everyone**

At Wildlings we promote good hygiene measures and teach children to ‘catch it, bin it, kill it, and disposing of tissues into a lidded bin. Children are encouraged to regularly wash their hands especially before and after eating or using the toilet.

Staff regularly wash their hand in the handwashing sink or tippy tap and hand sanitiser is available.

Full PPE must be worn by staff during personal care and gloves and apron must be disposed of after every child. Surfaces must be wiped with antibacterial spray.

Hall, kitchen, and toilet areas must be cleaned regularly, tables and chairs are cleaned before and after mealtimes, floors are swept. Frequently touched areas and surfaces are steamed at the end of every session and bins regularly emptied. Woods kits and portable toileting facilities must be cleaned after every session, any waste must be disposed of in relevant bins.

Windows are kept open to provide good ventilation during warmer months. Indoor spaces are ventilated regularly when it is too cold to leave windows open continuously.

#### **Following public health guidance on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19**

Management will keep up to date with all government updates and work alongside other agencies in event of a confirmed case of coronavirus in a member of staff or child.

Staff will carry out a Lateral flow test at home twice a week on a Sunday and Wednesday. Staff must inform management of any positive results in the event of a positive lateral flow test. A positive lateral flow result does not currently require a confirmatory PCR test. It should be treated in the same way as a positive PCR. The staff member must isolate immediately, inform NHS Test and Trace of their positive result and follow their guidance on isolation periods. If a staff member is experiencing coronavirus symptoms, a PCR must be booked and the staff member must isolate until a negative result or isolation period is complete.

Lateral flow testing is only advised for children over 12 years old. They are only to be used if the person taking the test is NOT showing any symptoms.

### **Attendance**

Children and staff are not permitted to attend Wildlings if they present any symptom of coronavirus as defined by UK government guidance as:

**New continuous cough-** this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs, if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual.

**High temperature-** defined by the NHS as over 38C.

### **Loss or change of taste and smell**

Anyone experiencing any of the above symptoms will be required to arrange a PCR test, contact Wildlings as soon as possible and follow the isolation procedure defined by government guidance.

Families and staff must forward the confirmation text or email with the result of the PCR to Wildlings before the child or member of staff can return to Wildlings.

<http://www.gov/government.publications/covid19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-housedholds-with-possible-coronavirus-covis-19-infection>

### **If a child becomes ill with symptoms whilst at Wildlings the following procedure will be taken:**

The child will be separated from the rest of the group with one member of staff caring for them, full PPE including mask will be worn by the team member. The parent will be contacted and asked to collect the child immediately, if the parent does not answer other emergency contacts can be used. Parents must be willing and available to collect their child during emergency situations.

Advice will be given to parents about next steps and who they can contact if they are uncertain about government guidance, testing and isolation.

After the child has left the setting a deep clean will take place alongside the usual cleaning procedure. The staff member will dispose of PPE and wash their hands.

### **If a member of staff becomes ill with symptoms whilst at Wildlings the following procedure will be carried out**

The staff member must inform management if they are feeling unwell, this may mean a short wait to allow management to ensure there are sufficient adults to care safely for the children and legal ratio requirements are met.

The member of staff will be asked to collect their belongings and arrange safe transport home.

Advice will be given to the staff member regarding self-isolation and testing procedures. The area where the staff member has been waiting and the areas the staff member has been working will be deep cleaned immediately after they have left.

To ensure the safety of all children and staff we are requiring anyone who has symptoms to arrange a PCR test.

Tests can be booked through:

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

If the child, our member of staff tests negative on their PCR test they can return to setting if they are well within themselves.

If a child or staff member has tested positive on their PCR test, they must follow government guidelines on isolating and must not attend Wildlings.

Management is required to notify Ofsted of any positive cases of coronavirus from children or staff.

Management can ring DfE for further advice-0800 046 8687

In event of the threshold of an outbreak being reached (confirmed by positive PCR results) management and team will review and reinforce Wildlings existing hygiene and safety measures.

## **Staffing**

If an outbreak is because staff members have tested positive with PCR test, the management will look at numbers of staff required for each session. If there are enough remaining staff and it is safe to operate Wildlings will remain open. If there are not enough members of staff to safely care for the children, then the management will contact committee to ask for advice or support with covering staff.

If the number of children attending needs to reduce to meet legal ratios, families may be prioritised in the following order, vulnerable children, children with special educational needs, key workers, children with both parents working, children with one parent working. Families will be asked to consider other sources or care.

## **Children**

If the outbreak is amongst the children at Wildlings, we will work closely with all authorities and be advised by them. All parents will be notified by email of confirmed cases. No names will be given. All staff will book and undertake a PCR test. Staff that are double vaccinated will not be required to isolate and can continue to attend work. Staff that have not been double vaccinated must isolate until they receive a negative PCR result.

## **Isolation**

Current government guidance advice is that children under 18 years old and adults that have been double vaccinated do not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested

positive for coronavirus. This would mean that if a child/staff member at Wildlings tested positive for coronavirus the children and double vaccinated staff who had been in contact would not isolate. From 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, government advice is that all close contacts of a positive covid case, aged 5 and over do not need to isolate, but should take a lateral flow test daily, for 7 days. This should be reported through the online reporting system. If we have a confirmed positive case at Wildlings, all families will be notified and families may decide if they want their child to attend. If a family decided to keep their child off, places will be secured but refunds cannot be given.

All adults and children with a positive covid result may be able to end their isolation period early if they have a negative lateral flow test result on day 5 and day 6 of their isolation, taken 24 hours apart. If this is the case, children and adults can return to Wildlings on day 6 of their isolation, by providing evidence of these two negative lateral flow results.

If **someone in your household has tested positive for coronavirus**, Under 5s are currently advised to get a PCR test, rather than use lateral flow devices for 7 days. Under 5s are not required to isolate, however, Wildlings strongly encourages families to keep their child off if there's a positive case in their household if this is at all possible and will not affect the child's safety or well-being. Unfortunately, refunds cannot be given for missed sessions, but we greatly appreciate those who are able support us by keeping children home when there is a case or cases of covid in their household, as this increases the likelihood of Wildlings being able to remain open for all families throughout the pandemic. A child showing symptoms must arrange a PCR and only return after a negative result. Refunds cannot be given but places will be secured. While lateral flow tests are not routinely recommended for under 5s, their use if a child is attending Wildlings while there is a positive case in their household may help to break chains of infection.

If **someone in a staff members household test positive for coronavirus**, government guidance advises that if a staff member has a positive case within their household, they can still attend work if they are symptom free. Staff will be asked to take LFT test every morning before entering the setting. If the staff member tests negative, they can attend work, if the staff member tests positive, they must isolate. Currently, there is no requirement for a follow up PCR if the person is not experiencing symptoms. Staff members should record their positive lateral flow result with NHS test and trace and follow the isolation instructions given by them. In this case staff will be able to claim SSP during their period of absence.

At Wildlings we support our staff and understand that during the coronavirus pandemic there might be times when staff need to stay at home to look after a child or spouse which has tested positive for coronavirus. Staff must contact management immediately and if child ratios can be met and safe care can be given to the children at Wildlings, management will arrange cover when possible. In this instance staff can take unpaid parental or compassionate leave.

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