

## PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF PANDEMIC FLU IN EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SETTINGS



MAIN POINTS	WHAT TO DO?
<p><b>1. Remind children and staff to wash their hands with soap and water, or use hand cleanser<sup>1</sup>, and make sure supplies are available</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> The term 'hand cleansers' is used here for a range of cleansers and sanitisers available as gels, handrubs, wipes and sprays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and children must use soap and water to wash soiled hands. Use a hand cleaner to wash your hands if they are not visibly soiled.</li> <li>• Strongly encourage staff to wash their hands to the extent possible between contacts with infants and children such as before meals or feedings, after wiping the child's nose or mouth, and after touching objects such as tissues or surfaces soiled with saliva or nasal secretions. If washing hands is not possible then use hand sanitiser.</li> <li>• Strongly encourage staff to wash the hands of infants and toddlers when their hands become soiled.</li> <li>• Encourage children to wash their hands with soap and water when their hands have become soiled – teach them to wash their hands for 15-20 seconds. Children with medical conditions may need staff assistance, as they may be at greater risk if careful hygiene procedures are not followed.</li> <li>• Follow the manufacturers' guidance on the use of hand cleansers.</li> <li>• Ensure that hand-washing facilities are stocked with soap, paper towels or working hand dryers.</li> <li>• Ensure that each childcare room and nappy changing area is supplied with hand cleansers if sinks for washing hands are not readily accessible. But cleansers must NOT be used for soiled hands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Wearing a mask</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When advised to by the authorities or when the nursery management consider it necessary, staff will wear masks to reduce the risk of passing on infection.</li> <li>• We may also request that parents do the same when on nursery property.</li> <li>• Children will not be asked to wear masks unless they have symptoms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Keep your setting environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean frequently touched surfaces such as toys and commonly shared items at</li> </ul>

<p><b>clean and make sure that supplies are available</b></p>	<p>least daily and when visibly soiled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use warm water and detergent, or commonly available household disinfectants/cleaning products, and follow instructions.</li> <li>• Keep detergents, disinfectants and cleaning products out of reach and sight of children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Remind children and staff to cover their noses and mouths when sneezing or coughing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind children and staff to cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when sneezing and coughing and to dispose of the tissue in a bag in a closed bin, which should be emptied before it becomes full.</li> <li>• Ensure tissues are available in all rooms in your setting and where meals are provided.</li> <li>• Encourage staff and children to wash their hands or use a hand cleanser as soon as possible, if they have sneezed or coughed in their hands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Observe all children for symptoms of fever and respiratory illness, especially when there is increased influenza in the community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe closely all children with respiratory illness or any of the symptoms given in paragraph 9 of the Infection Control Guidance for schools and early years settings.</li> <li>• If a child should fall ill whilst in a childcare group, arrange for the child to use a separate sick room to rest, away from other children to help prevent spread of the infection.</li> <li>• Notify parent(s) immediately for child to be taken home and advise parents to seek advice from the child's doctor.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Parents of sick children must keep their children home. Strongly encourage staff to stay at home if they have symptoms of illness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents of sick children must keep them at home and away from the setting until they no longer have symptoms, to prevent spreading the infection to others.</li> <li>• Sick staff must also stay at home and only return to work once completely recovered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The definition of 'pandemic flu' covers any illness, infection or disease which is declared notifiable by the Local Authority or Central Government.</li> <li>• All fees are payable at all times even when children have been sent home because they are ill or if the nursery is closed down as part of the emergency procedures to contain the spread of the illness, infection or disease. There are no exceptions.</li> </ul>

<p>Date policy was reviewed</p>	<p>March 2024</p>
<p>This policy is due for review before</p>	<p>March 2025</p>