



## **Eldene Pre-School and Toddlers**

### **10.13 Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic Policy**

#### **Policy statement**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature and a new, continuous cough.

The World Health Organization suggests the following to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus and to protect yourself.

#### **Wash your hands frequently**

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

#### **Maintain social distancing**

Maintain at least 2 metres distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes, they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

#### **Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth**

**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose, or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

#### **Practice respiratory hygiene**

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

#### **Eldene Pre-School and Toddlers will be reinforcing the following infection control procedures to ensure all staff, children and families are kept safe.**

- No persons other than working staff and children allowed to pass the blue gates. This includes, parents, delivery drivers, family, and friends.
- Any staff members or children entering the building need to wash their hands or gel their hands and then clean any surfaces touched.
- Windows should be opened for good ventilation.
- Hair must be tied up and not touching shoulders or clothing. Preferably a bun.
- Nails should be kept short.

- Gloves need to be worn when giving care to any persons. Gloves need to be changed after interaction with others and hands to be washed and gelled.
- If travelling into the setting via public transport such as buses and taxis. Clothing needs to be changed before entering passed the blue gates, clothes need to remain in the area where changing took place. Surfaces need to be cleaned. Hands need to be washed or gelled before entering the blue gates.
- Door handles, surfaces or toys need to be disinfected after any human contact.
- Plates, cups, cutlery need to be placed in Milton solution each morning, removed, and rinsed before use, and washed and placed back in the solution after use.
- Toilets, sinks, and surfaces need to be sprayed with disinfectant after each use.
- Portable sinks need hot water available in the morning. After each use it needs to be cleaned with disinfectant. At the end of the day the clean water container needs to be filled with the correct amount of Milton solution. The waste container needs to be filled with bleach water and the black waste tube placed inside to soak. The hand pump is to be taken apart and placed in Milton solution.
- Floors need to be bleached at the end of the day.
- The whole preschool to be disinfected at the end of the day.

If you feel unwell, with a temperature or persistent cough please do not come into the pre-school. Book a PCR test and wait until you have the result. Please send the negative result to us before coming back to preschool. If the test is positive, please self-isolate for 10 days. If you are double vaccinated for Covid-19 and someone in your household has tested positive you can come into to work. If you then have symptoms, you must then take a PCR test and follow the above instructions

Failure to follow these procedures during in the COVID-19 pandemic will result in a disciplinary.

New guidelines inform us now that there are no Covid-19 tests to be taken. If a staff member or a child at the setting feel unwell and believes it to be Covid-19, it is recommended that you stay at home if possible.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Eldene Pre-School & Toddlers.  
 Held on: - Friday 27th March 2020  
 Reviewed: - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023  
 To be reviewed: October 2024

Signed on behalf of Eldene Pre-School & Toddlers.

A Hanrahan

Ann-Marie Hanrahan – Chairperson.