

Bolton COVID-19 Update for Early Years Q&A's – 15 September 2020



Q: *If a child has one incidence of raised temp, is not poorly and doesn't have another temp do they have to quarantine?*

A: Yes. Children can have different symptoms to adults so may still test positive for COVID after a single incidence of a raised temperature. Any incidence of a raised temperature should be treated as a possible case and the child (or adult) should self isolate and apply for a test via 119 straight away.

Please refer to the NHS website for the latest guidance and specifically the section on temperatures and children.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Q: *Asking for support with risk assessment specifically OOSC and managing bubbles?*

A: Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

An updated risk assessment tool will be released shortly via the Start Well website. If you need any further support, contact Bolton Start Well.

Q: *In the rule of 6 can childminders take children to the park in the Bolton Lockdown- they can nationally but wanted clarification please?*

A: The Rule of 6 is a national condition and does not apply to Bolton at the current time. That said, childminders and settings should still maximise the use of outside space and may take small groups of children to outdoor public spaces in their bubbles, as long as a risk assessment demonstrates that they are able to stay at least 2m away from other people where possible.

The DfE have also added that they should ensure good hygiene throughout and thorough handwashing before and after the trip.

We understand that official DfE guidance will be updated shortly to confirm this position.

Q: *Managing recruitment during covid*

A: Settings should follow safe recruitment processes conducting online interviews where possible, using TEAMS, ZOOM or other similar facilities. The usual rules on face to face meetings do not apply and you should refer to the guidance for Bolton (see below). You should carry out a full risk assessment before allowing anyone into your setting to observe.

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-1/local-restrictions-cannot/3?documentId=648&categoryId=20119>

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Q: *Marketing ideas & sustainability – suggested enquiry management / discussed looking at attendance is it viable to open for 1 child on 3 afternoons??*

A: For many, we understand that viability is difficult. There is the Childcare Choices campaign, and the Council is continuing to use social media to advertise this and the two year old funding message.

There is also further training on the 30 hours business support available from MBK Consultants via the Start Well elearning platform. Providers can email StartWellBookings@bolton.gov.uk to register for the business support training.

Q: *Can children attend two settings?*

A: National guidance is asking parents to limit the number of settings a child attends.

In the Gov guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures> System of controls point 5 it states:

'Parents and carers should be encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently. This should also be the same for staff.'

We are aware that there are children attending both a private setting and school, or a private setting and an Out of School Setting.

Q: *What to do next? Positive case, bubble closed, parents/staff informed. Who do I need to notify next?*

A: This is all covered in the Action Card on the Start Well website:

<https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/downloads/file/489/covid-19-action-card-for-ey-positive-case-in-eyc>

If you need further help, please contact Start Well.

Q: *EYFS disapplication's – when do they apply till?*

A: To support early years providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government temporarily disapplied and modified certain elements of the EYFS statutory framework. This was to allow providers greater flexibility to respond to changes in workforce availability and potential fluctuations in demand, while still providing care that is high quality and safe. These disapplications have been reviewed on a monthly basis.

The disapplications came into force on 24 April 2020 and will end on 25 September 2020.

For more information, see the Start Well website.

Q: *When do we need to start using the new Development Matters?*

A: Early Adopter Primary schools (who have confirmed participation with DfE) will use the revised EYFS, EYFS Profile and Development Matters guidance from September 2020. All other schools and settings will use the revised EYFS and Development Matters from September 2021.

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Q: Can children travel to OoSS in a taxi?

A: The official guidance encourages parents to use private cars, walk or cycle and to avoid all but essential use of public transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Taxis are not specifically mentioned and we are looking for further guidance. In the meantime, taxis should be treated as a form of public transport and individuals should carry out their own risk assessments.

Q: How do we manage toilet training?

A: As long as there is a risk assessment in place, it should be business as usual with the use of PPE where relevant.

Q: Staff are concerned about parents dropping children off and social distancing.

A: Some schools are staggering drop offs and pick ups. Parents should be encouraged to drop children off and pick them up quickly and leave the setting immediately. Parents should be discouraged from mixing or socialising outside the setting.

Q: Can childminders still meet up?

A: Not at the present time.

The rules for Bolton differ from the rest of the country and the Rule of 6 does not apply:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-1/local-restrictions-cannot/3?documentId=648&categoryId=20119>

Q: Where can we get PPE?

A: There are some emergency PPE pack available as last time. The emergency supplies are in packs of 10, and if you email policyandperformance@bolton.gov.uk they can arrange delivery.

Q: What are the rules around informal childcare?

A: The current rules do not allow for friends and relatives to look after children unless they live with them or they are in their support bubble. Children can only be cared for in private settings or with a registered childminder.

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Q: Do settings need to re-evaluate their risk assessment due to local restrictions and heighten some of their procedures as a result?

A: Risk assessments will need to be updated in light of the local restrictions, particularly:

- Informal childcare arrangements to pick up drop off children not permitted under local restrictions.
 - Robust support for staff teams to understand local restrictions and encourage safe behaviour.
 - Awareness of Action card local processes, shared understanding across leadership team and staff if positive case.
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