

# COVID-19

## Business as Usual

### OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR EARLY YEARS OWNERS/LEADERS/MANAGERS/CHILDMINDERS

#### 1. Introduction and overview:

1.1 As we continue to progress at pace through our de-escalation plans, Early Years Providers are able to resume normal operating procedures. Although vigilance should still be exercised, it is now possible for Early Years Providers to resume all usual activities. Careful attention should still be given to promoting good hygiene measures to reduce the spread of germs and any consequential impact on absence for staff and children.

#### 2. Hygiene measures

2.1 All settings should continue to promote positive hygiene measures. This includes:

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and drying them thoroughly
- Cleaning hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- Encouragement not to touch mouth, eyes and nose as appropriate to children's development
- Using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Considering how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- Ensuring that bins are emptied throughout the day
- Enhanced cleaning once per day

#### 3. Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)

3.1 Please refer to latest advice on gov.gg [here](#), noting that currently, the use of LFTs is still required in the following circumstances:

- If you are symptomatic (if the test is negative, please repeat after 24 hours)

#### 4. STAFF - COVID-19 cases, symptoms and contacts of a positive case

4.1 It is no longer a legal requirement for identified positive cases of COVID-19 to self-isolate, however, all members of the community – and that includes us – are asked to recognise that whilst the

emergency response and imposition of Emergency Regulations has concluded, COVID-19 has not disappeared. It is for this reason that we ask and expect everyone to embrace living responsibly with COVID-19.

#### 4.2 This will mean:

- If you are showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#), however mild, stay at home and take an LFT (if the first test is negative, repeat after 24 hours).
- If you test positive by LFT you are required to notify the States of Guernsey via either the clinical helpline (01481 220001 or 01481 220002) or on the online form [here](#)
- If you test positive, you must inform your line manager of your positive result and should stay at home for 5 days following the day of your positive result. However, you can have unlimited outdoor exercise away from other people during the first 5 days
- Should you be asymptomatic by Day 6, you may return to work wearing a mask in enclosed spaces or poorly ventilated spaces until Day 10
- No testing to release on day 6 is required, unless specifically required by a Health and Care Setting.
- Working from home where possible (we know this isn't always possible in our sector) and if well enough to do so during this period should be arranged in conjunction with line managers

4.3 If you test positive, do not attend the workplace. Work from home if appropriate. You are not letting the side down by not going into the workplace if you are unwell, you are mitigating the risk of the spread of COVID-19, or any other illnesses, to your colleagues, children and wider workforce.

## 5. Children – COVID-19 cases and symptoms

### Positive cases

5.1 There is some evidence that children have a shorter duration of illness compared to adults. Children and young people who get a positive COVID-19 result should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day of a positive test. They can go out on Day 4 if they are asymptomatic. (No test to release is advised, unless specifically required by a Health and Care Setting.)

### Symptoms

5.2 Children should not attend their Early Years Provider if unwell or displaying any symptoms. Regular hayfever sufferers should take appropriate medication to reduce symptoms and take an LFT as needed.

### LFTs

5.3 The use of LFTs is still required in the following circumstances:

- If you are symptomatic (if the test is negative, please repeat after 24 hours)

## 6. TRAVEL beyond the Bailiwick

6.1 If you are planning any off-island trips please check with your insurers before booking or making or taking payments. It is very important to be aware that, whilst UK measures allow for free movement in and out of the UK, many other countries still have specific requirements in place which are also

subject to change at short notice (isolation periods and vaccine requirements for example) and there continues to be inherent risks associated with planning travel.

## **7. Guidance for people previously classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)**

7.1 Most people who were identified as CEV are now well protected after receiving their primary and booster vaccination doses. For most people who were CEV, they are no longer at substantially greater risk than the general population and are advised to follow the same guidance as everyone else on staying safe and preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as any further advice they may have received from their doctor.

7.2 Leaders and Managers should continue to be aware of the needs of the very small number of individual staff, children and parents for whom their immunocompromised status continues to put them at a greater risk and take this into account when planning activities on a case-by-case basis. Medical advice should be provided by medical professionals for staff or the individual's known clinician for children/parents.

**Please ensure to communicate clearly all information to parents/carers and your staff teams.**