



Epsom Playhouse Pre-School

Personal Protective Equipment Guidance Early Years Settings

Early Years Educational Effectiveness
June 2020

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they normally need for their work.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases. These situations are captured in the section below “Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings”.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Education, childcare and children’s social care settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible, and there is unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they may approach their nearest local resilience forum.

Safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

How to work safely in specific situations, including where PPE may be required

Reference to PPE in the following situations means:

- fluid-resistant surgical face masks

- disposable gloves
- disposable plastic aprons
- eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles)

Where PPE is recommended, this means that:

- a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of coronavirus
- if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn
- if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye from, for example, coughing, spitting or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

When PPE is used, it is essential that it is used properly. This includes scrupulous hand hygiene and following guidance on [how to put PPE on and take it off safely](#) in order to reduce self-contamination.

Face masks must:

- cover both nose and mouth
- not be allowed to dangle around the neck
- not be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal
- be changed when they become moist or damaged
- be worn once and then discarded - hands must be cleaned after disposal

How should I care for children who regularly spit?

If non-symptomatic children present behaviours which may increase the risk of droplet transmission (such as spitting), they should continue to receive care in the same way, including any existing routine use of PPE.

To reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission, no additional PPE is necessary, but additional space and frequent cleaning of surfaces, objects and toys will be required. Cleaning arrangements should be increased in all settings, with a specific focus on surfaces which are touched a lot. Read [guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).

In settings, what should be done if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus and needs to be cared for until they can return home?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education, childcare or non-residential children social care setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision if required depending on the age of the child. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

Is PPE required for tasks involving changing nappies or general care for babies?

Staff should follow their normal practice when changing nappies and caring for babies more generally, provided the child is not showing symptoms of coronavirus. This includes continuing to use the PPE that they would normally wear in these situations, for example aprons and gloves. If a child shows symptoms, they should not attend a childcare setting and should be at home.

How should PPE and face coverings be disposed of?

Used PPE and any disposable face coverings that staff, children or other learners arrive wearing should be placed in a refuse bag and can be disposed of as normal domestic waste unless the wearer has symptoms of coronavirus, in line with the [guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).

Any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

To dispose of waste from people with symptoms of coronavirus, such as disposable cleaning cloths, tissues and PPE:

- put it in a plastic rubbish bag and tie it
- place the plastic bag in a second bin bag and tie it
- put it in a suitable and secure place marked for storage for 72 hours

Waste should be stored safely and securely kept away from children. You should not put your waste in communal waste areas until the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

National Guidance referred to in compiling this guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>