



Infection Prevention (COVID-19)

The Montessori Children's House recognises the importance of advanced planning in order to maintain our service and limit the spread of the new coronavirus, known as Covid-19, within our setting. Covid-19 is a viral infection spread from person to person by close contact. Symptoms can include a dry cough, fever, sore throat, difficulty breathing, tiredness and loss of taste or smell.

Infection Control

Like the common cold and flu viruses, Covid-19 is spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance
- Direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Touching objects (eg door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands. Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

To manage the risk of catching or spreading Covid-19 we will follow key government guidelines:

Increased and frequent hand hygiene

- Ensuring handwashing facilities are accessible for children
- Using disposable paper towels
- Ensuring that all staff and children frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Montessori 'grace and courtesy' lessons will be used to teach and reinforce proper hand washing.
- Handwashing will take place on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, after toileting and when coming in from the garden.
- Antibacterial hand gel will be made available to parents and staff at the entrance to the setting.

Good respiratory hygiene

- Covering nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (using a tissue whenever possible, disposing of it promptly and washing hands afterwards).
- Providing tissues and lined bins for their disposal both inside and outdoors.

Enhanced Cleaning Practices

- Routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched objects and touchpoints such as tabletops, chairs, doors, light switches, materials.
- Toilets will be cleaned at 10.30am and at the end of each session.
- All crockery and equipment used for snack/lunch will be cleaned and dried thoroughly after use.
- Water and playdough will be replaced on a daily basis.
- Children will be discouraged from bringing toys and books from home to the setting.
- Children will not share outdoor clothing or footwear.

Maintaining Good Ventilation

- Opening of doors and windows will be encouraged to increase natural ventilation and reduce contact with door handles.

Ensuring adequate supplies of cleaning materials and PPE (disposable gloves, aprons, masks)

Appropriate social distancing between staff (2 metres)

Infection or Suspected Infection

- Any child who becomes unwell with symptoms which could be Covid-19 while at the MCH will be isolated from other children by at least 2 metres (in a well ventilated space) until collected by his/her parents.
- Staff and children who develop symptoms consistent with Covid-19 must follow the TEST and Protect guidance, which includes staying at home, self-isolating and contacting NHS Inform for advice.
- We will contact the local health protection team and Care Inspectorate for advice if we have 2 or more cases (staff or children).
- If any staff or children have returned from a high-risk area they will be asked to stay away from the MCH for 14 days from the date of return.

- If any staff or children experience a recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature (even if they have not been to a high risk area or been in contact with anyone who has) they must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days (even if the symptoms are mild) and the school should be informed.