# The Lloyd Williamson Nurseries

# Infection Control Policy

# 2026-2027

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| Updated by Ramona Cristea and Lucy Meyer |
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## Introduction

Lloyd Williamson Nurseries have a duty of care to all children, staff and visitors to the nurseries. At all times we strive to protect the health, safety and welfare of all users – children, visitors, parents/carers and staff. The nurseries ensure that this duty of care is maintained by having in place an infection control policy which allows staff to establish a safe and healthy environment.

When children are young, because their immunity may not have fully developed, they are often highly susceptible to infectious diseases. In the nursery, where children are in close and frequent contact with each other, infectious diseases can spread rapidly. Fortunately, there are a number of ways to reduce the risk of infections in children.

1. Routine immunisations can protect children against many severe and sometimes fatal infections.
2. Providing children with a healthy diet helps to ensure that their bodies are better equipped to combat infections and minimises the risks of other health problems, such as dental decay.
3. Simple procedures can also be implemented in the nursery to help protect children from disease, such as:

- Rigorous hygiene
- Exclusion of children and adults with infections, when appropriate, from the nurseries
- Prompt and appropriate treatment of infections.

### Legislation

The guiding principles of infection control and safe working systems come under the umbrella of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require employers to carry out risk assessments and to implement appropriate control measures to minimise risks.

In the context of the nursery these could include:

- personal protective clothing
- hand washing facilities
- safe waste disposal

- facilities for managing outbreaks, e.g. of vomiting and diarrhoea.

The main principles for achieving high standards of infection control are concerned with;

- reducing or eliminating sources of infection through thorough hygiene practices.
- preventing transfer of contamination from these sources
- educating staff and children about good hygiene practices.

**Aim**

To provide a safe environment where staff are aware of common infection control issues.

**Implementation Strategies**

Check premises are clean and safe before children arrive each day

- Both nurseries conduct an opening checklist each morning prior to opening.
- Establish cleaning routines for the premises – nappy changing facilities, play areas, toilets and kitchens
- Regular cleaning of toys, sand, furnishings, dressing up clothes and other equipment
- Provide suitable hand washing facilities and drying equipment.
- Daily checks of outdoor areas including leaf blowing etc as necessary.

**Teaching children about good hygiene practices**

We recognize the importance of raising children's awareness of good hygiene practices by teaching them about the importance of;

- hand washing
- cleaning teeth
- nose wiping and disposal of tissues
- the spread of infection through coughing and sneezing
- using the toilet correctly.

**Hand Washing**

Hand washing is essential to ensure that contamination and infection carried on hands through activities such as toileting, nappy changing and general play is eliminated. Staff should ensure that

- All children are instructed on how to wash their hands properly and educated as to the importance of why we wash our hands.
- Staff are good role models.
- Children wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they appear dirty, before eating, after blowing their noses, if they have been playing with materials that are susceptible to cross infection of germs e.g. sand, playing outdoors or after contact with animals.
- Staff should supervise children's hand washing on a regular basis to ensure that they are observing good practice.

Hand washing procedures

1. Wet hands under warm running water.
2. Apply a small amount of liquid soap.
3. Rub hands together vigorously ensuring soap and water is applied to all surfaces of the hands. Be sure to rub between fingers, under fingernails and around the tops of the fingers, the palms and the back of the hands.
4. Rinse hands under running water.
5. Dry hands, preferably using disposable paper towels.
6. Turn the tap off preferably using a paper towel.

**Toilet Hygiene**

Staff should enable children to understand the importance of good toilet hygiene Toilet Hygiene in the elimination of cross-infection. The toilets will be cleaned regularly by the out-of-hours cleaner but also, as need arises, by staff members throughout the day and soap and paper towels replenished when required.

Staff should:

- Check toilets in the morning before children arrive and regularly throughout the day to ensure that they are clean. If toilets have become soiled, staff should use the appropriate protective clothing (plastic apron and gloves) before cleaning. A separate mop and cloth should be used for the toilet area. The mop should be rinsed thoroughly and the cloth should be washed at a temperature of 60 degrees or more.
- Ensure that there is an adequate supply of soap and paper towels.
- Ensure that children are supported in implementing good toilet hygiene procedures including using the toilet, flushing and hand washing and that staff are aware of which children require support within their room.
- Discuss with children the importance of good hygiene in the toilet area and ask them to report to staff if the toilets require to be cleaned. This will encourage children to consider toilet hygiene on an ongoing basis.

**Nappy Changing**

Staff should ensure:

- Changing facilities are maintained in good order and to a high level of cleanliness with all of the appropriate equipment at hand.
- Ensure that they have access to all of the equipment they need to change a child's nappy before beginning this process, including running water.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after each nappy change (including after disposal of nappy).
- Wear a disposable apron and gloves
- Use a waterproof changing mat.
- Clean any surface that is soiled during changing and between each child using anti-bacterial spray and paper towels and then dry the surface.
- Dispose of nappies safely by placing them in an individual nappy sack before placing them in a nappy bin that is also lined with a plastic liner

**Food and Kitchen Hygiene**

Please note – we do not in usual circumstances cook and prepare food in the nurseries

All staff responsible for food preparation and handling should receive appropriate training that includes storing, preparing, cooking and serving food safely and hygienically.

Staff should:

- Discuss with children the importance of ensuring that surfaces and equipment are spotlessly clean before use. Children can assist in the process of cleaning surfaces etc.
- Ensure that children wash hands properly before handling food and discuss with them why they need to do this.
- Check used by dates on food e.g breadsticks and rice cakes which are provided by the nurseries and ensure that all packaging is intact before use.
- Keep perishable foods in the fridge.
- Clean and disinfect chopping boards regularly.
- Ensure food is cooked right through before eating.

Healthy Eating Nutritious food and drink are essential for our health and wellbeing. Staff will provide children with a variety of healthy food to engage them in healthy eating policy.

Staff should:

- Ensure that children have access to drinking water and milk throughout the day
- Children should be encouraged to pour water etc for themselves as they grow older
- Staff must make sure that they are aware of any children with special dietary requirements and that these children are catered for appropriate to their needs.
- Staff must be mindful of allergens and make sure food brought into the nursery does not contain – avocado, kiwis nuts, strawberries and sesame
- Staff must be mindful of the food parents bring in and discourage foods such as chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks

**Toys And Equipment**

Toys and play equipment are a source of fun and learning for children but toys that are inappropriate for the child's age and stage of development or resources in poor repair can lead to injury. Further to this, toys that are frequently shared between children can become a source of infection.

Staff should:

- Ensure that any resources purchased are age and stage appropriate and carry the safety mark (CE, BS or BSI).
- Ensure that resources purchased are able to be cleaned.

- Check toys regularly for broken bits and rough edges. Discard any toys that are unsafe and report to the SLT.
- Report any toys that need mending to the SLT
- Remove dust regularly. Dust can trigger asthma attacks and harbour germs.
- Clean toys regularly and as needed
- Clean hard, plastic toys by washing them with detergent an using Milton and drying thoroughly.
- Disinfect hard plastic toys that cannot be washed. By using Milton or similar
- Launder dirty soft toys in a washing machine.
- Store toys in a clean container or cupboard.
- Sandpits to be checked before use outdoors and sand changed regularly.
- Carry out appropriate risk assessments as necessary on activities and the environment in which they take place.
- Do daily playground checks
- Clean and disinfect toys during an outbreak of illness.
- Immediately clean and disinfect toys that are contaminated with bodily fluids (e.g. blood, saliva, mucus)
- Destroy contaminated soft toys that cannot be washed in the washing machine effectively
- Staff must wash their hands after handling contaminated toys.
- Ensure that children wash their hands as necessary after playing outdoors, in the sand or water or in the ball pool.
- Replace soft modelling materials and dough regularly.
- Discourage children from putting toys into their mouths.

**Floors, Walls and Furniture**

Staff are responsible for ensuring that any spillages are dealt with immediately. Staff should:

- Wear disposable gloves to clean up bodily fluids or spillages.
- Use disposable towels to clean up the spill and dispose of the towels in a sealed plastic bag
- After removal of spillage, clean the area with a freshly prepared solution of detergent and water.
- Wash hands after removing gloves
- Ensure disinfectant is stored away from children
- Fabrics which are used communally e.g. cushions, dressing up clothing, blankets etc can become a source of cross contamination and must be laundered regularly. Staff should:
    - Decontaminate fabrics which may have become contaminated through bodily fluids by washing at a temperature no less than 60 degrees.
    - If lower temperatures are necessary, use a chemical disinfectant in the wash.
    - Use products that remove organic residues (e.g. faeces, urine and blood stains) as these can harbour germs.
    - Launder kitchen fabrics separately from those used in the playrooms.
    - Wash hands after contact with soiled linens.

- Make sure dirty laundry is transported in a bag from PGT2 to PGT1
- Ensure that children cannot gain access to laundry at PGT1

**Pets/Animals**

Please also see RA for dogs in the nursery
Animals and/or pets within the nursery can add a great dimension to children's learning, as can trips out to visit animals in a variety of settings but animals can pose a risk of infection. Currently the only nursery pet is a xenopus in PGT1 (Misty) and the children do not handle her.
Staff should ensure that Misty is fed, watered and housed appropriately and safe from harm.
Clean Misty's tank regularly
Keep pet food separate from other food and out of reach of children.

For trips where children will come into contact with animals, a separate risk assessment should be conducted.

Ensure that hygiene and hand washing procedures are implemented on trips out of the nursery to animal enclosures.

**Immunisation**:

Immunisation means using a vaccine to protect people from getting a disease. This is usually the safest protection for children as infectious diseases can be very serious and sometimes fatal. If people stop being immunised, diseases which are uncommon could become common again. If children are immunised they are protected from infection and will help to protect other children too.

When parents apply for a place at the nurseries they complete a form which includes:

Name and details of their GP

Details on vaccinations given

Any allergies or food intolerances

Any medical issues we need to be aware of

(Please also note our procedures for children with medical/health care plans)

Staff are encouraged to be up to date with immunisations. The nurseries will cover the costs for staff wishing to have a flu vaccinations who would otherwise not be offered one by their GP.

We recommend that all female staff between 16-25 have received the double dose MMR. We recognise that pregnant staff or staff with low immune systems may be at greater risk from infection.

The nursery will inform staff of any serious contagious diseases in our nursery children/staff, with additional emphasis to pregnant parents and staff.

**Exclusion Periods**

A number of communicable illnesses require that children (and staff) be excluded from nursery. The table below gives a guide to exclusion periods but the most up to date information can be found from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) We will use advice from doctors and healthcare professionals to aid this as appropriate.

Chickenpox for five days after rash appears

Conjunctivitis None (but children must be being treated)

Diarrhoea and vomiting Until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. Staff should be aware that teething etc may cause loose stools and this does not mean the child is ill. For staff, any member experiencing such symptoms may not handle food and must wash their hands frequently. A mask will be worn as appropriate.

Hand, foot and mouth disease None but children should be being treated

Hepatitis A* Exclusion may be necessary. Consult Health Care professionals as appropriate.

Impetigo Until lesions are crusted or healed

Measles* For five days after rash appears

Mumps* For five days after onset of swollen glands

Ringworm Until treatment is started

Rubella (German measles)* For five days after the onset of the rash

Scabies Until after first treatment

Scarlet fever* For five days after commencing antibiotics

Threadworms None but children must be treated

Tuberculosis (TB)* Always consult health care professionals

Whooping cough (pertussis)* Until five days after commencing antibiotics or 21 days after onset of illness

*Denotes a notifiable disease.

Senior staff should:

- Inform parents/carers of the arising of infections in the nursery.
- Ensure that parents/carers know that they must contact the nursery if their child has any illness or condition.
- Regularly update contact numbers and children's medical details.
- Ensure that emergency contacts are up to date.
- Keep abreast of current health issues e.g notifications by RBKC
- Seek advice from the local CCDC (Consultant in Communicable Disease Control) as necessary

**First Aid Boxes**

**First** Aid National standards state that nurseries should have a first aid box complying with the Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations 1981. The contents must be checked regularly against a list and replaced by a designated staff member.

Staff should:

- Wash hands thoroughly after performing first aid procedures.
- Clean up any blood spills immediately.
- Ensure that first aid training is updated regularly.
- Ensure that you are aware of the nursery policy on first aid procedures

n.b. All staff are given Paediatric First Aid training as soon as practicably possible from joining and within six months.

Updated 14.10.2026

Lucy Meyer

## Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

This isn't an exhaustive list of policies and only includes policies specific to the EYFS. For a full list of our policies, see www.lloydwilliamsonnurseries.co.uk/policies

| Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS | Where can it be found? |
|---|---|
| Safeguarding policy and procedures | See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy |
| Procedure for responding to illness | See Health and Safety Policy |
| Administering medicines policy | See Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy |
| Emergency evacuation procedure | See Health and Safety Policy |
| Procedure for checking the identity of visitors | See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy |
| Procedures for a parent/carer failing to collect a child and for missing children | See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy |
| Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints | See Complaints Policy |