

Pioneer Childcare

Pandemic Diseases Policy

Pioneer Childcare recognises the importance of advanced planning to maintain services and limit the spread of pandemic diseases within our settings.

Viral infections spread from person to person by close contact. Symptoms may include:

Sudden fever	Limb and joint pain
Sudden cough	Diarrhoea or stomach upset
Headache	Sore throat
Tiredness	Runny nose
Chills	Sneezing
Aching muscles	Loss of appetite

Any child who becomes ill with symptoms which could be infectious while at Pioneer Childcare will be isolated from the other children until the child can be collected by his or her parents/carers. Pioneer Childcare will remain open, but parents/carers and staff will be informed, especially those in high-risk groups.

Any children or staff who are experiencing symptoms should stay away from the club until all symptoms have passed and they feel well.

Infection control

Infectious viruses are spread by:

- Infected people passing the virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing, or even talking within a close distance (one metre or less).
- 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 (e.g., 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. The virus can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

We will limit the risk of catching or spreading viruses at clubs by:

- Regular handwashing.
- Minimising contact between our hands, mouth, and nose.
- Covering our nose and mouth with the crook of our elbow when coughing or sneezing; using a tissue and disposing of the tissue promptly (catch it, kill it, bin it) and carefully in a lidded bin.
- Encouraging the children at our clubs to follow the guidance above.
- Instructing staff to remain at home if they display any relevant symptoms or sending them home if they first display symptoms while at work.

At Pioneer Childcare we will promote infection control through the methods above, and in addition we will:

- Display posters and information to promote infection control where and when possible.
- Ensure that adequate supplies of cleaning materials are available within the club.
- Dispose of waste promptly and hygienically.
- Clean hard surfaces (e.g., door handles) with sanitizer regularly.
- Provide tissues and suitable facilities for their disposal.
- Keep areas ventilated, opening windows when possible.

Closure

There may be occasions when we will have to consider temporarily closing the club, in line with UK Health Security Agency, local authority or Government advice. If this occurs the Director of Childcare will seek support and guidance from Local Authorities or the UK Health Security Agency.

The club may also have to close if advised to do so by the local authority or the UK Health Security Agency in the interest of safeguarding the children in our care.

In the event of closure, we will notify parents/carers as soon as possible. The Director of Childcare will also inform the local childcare information service as well as other relevant parties, e.g., feeder schools, other users of shared premises, etc. The Director of Childcare will also notify Ofsted of the closure.

Advance planning

In preparation for dealing with a pandemic disease, the club will ensure that all contact details for staff, children and parents/carers are up to date.

We will prepare letters of notification for parents/carers and staff, so that they can be distributed as soon as an outbreak occurs.

We will also ensure that we have adequate measures in place to help support staff or children who are dealing with bereavement.

We will endeavour to build a bank of relief or supply staff who are able to provide cover should staffing levels fall below the required legal minimums. Any relief staff will be DBS checked at the time of joining our team, so that they are legally able to work with children should the situation arise.

The club will regularly update its information regarding pandemic diseases, by checking the latest guidance from DfE and the local authority and will inform parents/carers and staff of any changes to our emergency plans.

Useful contacts

Early Years or Childcare Service: 01243 777807

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

UK Health Security Agency, Sussex Health Protection Team:

In-hours: (Monday – Friday 9am–5pm) 0344 225 3861, hold then option 3

Out of hours: 0844 967 0069

This policy was adopted by: Pioneer Childcare Ltd	Date: 25 th January 2025
To be reviewed: 24 th January 2026	Signed: <i>J. Wilkins</i>

Written in accordance with the EYFS welfare requirements: *Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.*