Childminders: please note changes to the process for dealing with a positive Covid-19 case in your childminding setting.

Due to the rise in the number of COVID cases across London, childminders, together with schools and other early years provision, are being asked to conduct their own on-site risk assessment when they receive notice of a positive Covid-19 case which affects their provision.

This guidance sets out 1) how to do this 2) where to seek advice from and when to escalate 3) who and when to report the information to. Please note all sections of this guidance are of equal importance.

Please note: childminders should ensure to clean settings carefully at the end of each day.

1) Managing people with symptoms and positive cases

The London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) has put together a guidance pack with information and resources. While it is written primarily for schools and group settings, childminders may find the information and advice useful, particularly the risk assessment template.

Note that the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a child or member of staff has any of those symptoms they should self-isolate and get tested as soon as possible, and their household should self-isolate too whilst they self-isolate. The rest of the children in the childminder setting do not need to self-isolate whilst they await the result.

**If they have negative result** – when they are well they can return to the setting and so can the rest of the family.

**If the result is positive** - they are considered a case - the person who has tested positive should self-isolate for 10 days from the time of the symptoms starting and until they are well. The whole family should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the person first had symptoms (longer if they test positive within that time and need 10 days to recover that goes beyond the 14 days – see image below). Other children in the same bubble as the child and the childminder would also have to self-isolate for 14 days. See summary tables below.
What is a contact of a case

A ‘contact’ is a person who has been in close proximity with COVID-19 and is therefore at risk of developing infection. Contacts of a case must self-isolate if they have been in contact with someone...
who is confirmed to have COVID-19 up to 48 hours before they had symptoms and 10 days once their symptoms start. Contacts are defined in the following ways:

Direct contact:
- Anyone who lives in the same household as a case
- Anyone who has had face to face contact with a case, for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to
- Anyone who has been within 1 meter of a case for one minute or longer

Proximity contact:
- Anyone who has been within two meters of a case for more than 15 minutes
- Anyone who has travelled in a small vehicle with a case

To help childminders manage straightforward cases, see the following examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who tests positive? (positive test result)</th>
<th>What action should I take?</th>
<th>What does this mean for my business?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childminder</td>
<td>Childminder must self-isolate for 10 days (from the start of symptoms); anyone who has been a close contact of the childminder up to 48 hours before the childminder developed symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days from the time that they first showed symptoms. Everyone in the household of the childminder should also self-isolate for 14 days.</td>
<td>Childminder cannot operate for at least 10 days or 14 days if they have household members who will need to self-isolate for 14 days; children or staff who have been a close contact of the childminder must stay home for 14 days from the time that the childminder first showed symptoms. The children from the childminder should be self-isolating and cannot leave home. The households of the children or staff who are self-isolating do not need to self-isolate if the child/staff do not have symptoms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Child in childminder’s care or an external member of staff | Child must self-isolate for 10 days (and they must be well before they return) and their households must isolate for 14 days; anyone who has been a close contact of the child up to 48 hours before the child developed symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days (the households of the contacts do not need to isolate) | If the child/staff who tested positive was at the childminder within 48 hours of showing symptoms the childminder cannot operate for at least 14 days as the childminder should be self-isolating; no children can return before the 14 day return date. The wider household of the childminder will need to self-isolate if they have been defined as a contact of the child/staff member. The wider household will not need |
to self-isolate if they have not been a contact and if the setting has been regularly and carefully cleaned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent or sibling of child in childminder’s care/or household member of staff</th>
<th>Child of parent or sibling must self-isolate for at least 14 days. That member of staff or child who are self-isolating cannot attend the childminder setting even if they are well.</th>
<th>Childminder can continue to operate and other children can continue to attend; child affected can return after 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childminder’s partner or family member</td>
<td>Childminder must self-isolate for 14 days. If the children in the childminders care are also contacts of that person they will also need to self-isolate for at least 14 days.</td>
<td>Childminder cannot operate for 14 days. Children in childminder’s bubble do not have to self-isolate provided they have not been a close contact of the affected member of the childminder’s family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Advice and Escalation

- If you need any advice or have more complex cases, please contact the DFE helpline: 0800 046 8687
- If you need further advice, you can contact Islington’s Public Health team: CIPHadmin@islington.gov.uk (put ‘Covid-19 case’ in subject)
- There are certain specific conditions where childminders should be escalating to LCRC: 033 303 0450. Full guidance is in the guidance pack. If any of your children or staff are in hospital as a result of coronavirus you should escalate to LCRC

3) Reporting

If childminder settings have a confirmed case/s, they must report, on the day they receive confirmation, to:

- Family Information Service: fis@islington.gov.uk
- Social worker involved with affected child/ren

Family Information Service will ask you for further information about the numbers of children and adults affected.