



Planning for a Influenza Pandemic
(Updated February 2020)

Stepping Stones will adhere to any Public Health England guidance on Infection Control relating to pandemic flu and other infectious diseases. This advice may override the stated Stepping Stones policy.

This policy focuses on pandemic flu, but is also good practice for reducing the spread of other viral infections. Pandemic flu is different from ordinary flu as it occurs when a new flu virus emerges into the human population and spreads readily and rapidly from person to person worldwide.

In the event of an influenza pandemic in the UK Stepping Stones will endeavour to continue to provide a service to the children and their families who attend our setting working within Government guidelines.

Symptoms of influenza are

Most significant	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough and/or shortness of breath • Sudden onset of symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aching muscles • Sore throat • Runny nose, sneezing • Loss of appetite • Headache • Malaise (lethargy, listlessness) • Chills

POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Children and/or Carers will not be admitted to the setting if they appear ill.
- Children and Carers should be free of all symptoms listed above for 48 hours before returning to Stepping Stones
- Carers to inform Stepping Stones of a child’s illness by telephone on the first day of absence.
- Should your child develop symptoms whilst in session, Stepping Stones will contact you and would ask that you collect your child promptly.
- To ensure that your child is appropriately supported in session by the relevant adult to child ratio we will endeavour to contact you at home prior to 9.00am should it be necessary to cancel morning sessions or 11am for afternoon sessions due to staff sickness.



Policy for staff/volunteers

- Staff who have flu symptoms should not come into work; They should follow the Absence from work policy regarding sickness. Informing the Manager/Office before 9am on the first day of absence.
- Staff should be free of all symptoms of cold/flu for 48 hours before returning to Stepping Stones.
- Staff should follow good hygiene practice - washing hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing their nose.
- Staff should follow the cleaning policy paying particular attention to the cleaning with antibacterial spray of hard surfaces (tables, door handles, light switches, taps) These should be cleaned more regularly than usual to help prevent infection spreading.
- Staff should consider suspending the use of communal toys during a pandemic especially those prone to frequent hand and mouth contact and soft toys which are hard to clean.
- In the event that there are insufficient staff available to effectively manage a session then parents will be informed and the session will be cancelled. Staff who are fit for work will still be required to attend.
- The responsibility for ensuring parents are contacted and informed of any session closure will be that of the most senior staff member available on the day.