

BH Torah Montessori Nursery Policy on Covid 19 (adapted from Government Guidelines)

As a result of the huge efforts everyone has made to adhere to strict social distancing measures, the government's 5 tests have been met, meaning we can move forward with modifying measures which have been in place. Based on all the evidence, from the week commencing 1 June, we can welcome back more children to early years and primary school settings and confirmation that this could go ahead was provided by the Prime Minister on 28 May.

We want to get all children and young people back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers, carers and teachers. Children returning to educational and childcare settings in greater numbers will also allow more families to return to work.

This advice seeks to support staff working in childcare settings, to deliver in the safest way possible, focusing on measures they can put in place to help limit risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings.

We have published more detailed guidance on [preparing for the wider opening of early years and childcare settings](#).

Settings should read this guidance in conjunction with [Actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

This guidance will be updated as required.

Effective infection protection and control

In all childcare settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) involves dealing with **direct** transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and **indirect** transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this.

These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, **do not attend** our nursery

- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning touched surfaces after each session, using disinfectant
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetable

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

Wearing a face covering or face mask in nursery **is not recommended**.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person

If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting.

If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable guidance](#), it is advised they do not attend our setting.

Class sizes

We know that, early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years, we are taking this into account.

- we will have a maximum of 6 children at a session
- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of the setting

Outside space:

- use for outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff
- ensure outdoor equipment is appropriately cleaned before and after use

In preparation for our return we have done the following planning and organising:-

- refreshed our risk assessment and other health and safety advice for children, young people and staff in light of recent government advice
- identified protective measures (such as the things listed below) and ensured that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening
- organised learning environment to maximize the space
- refresh the timetable:
 - establish drop offs and pickups from the back garden (weather permitting)
 - arrange lessons and classroom activities outdoors, as much as possible
 - minimise adult to adult contact at drop off and pick up
 - ensure playground equipment is used and appropriately cleaned
- remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean

Arrivals, settling in and departures

- nobody is allowed to enter the nursery if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus
- only one parent may accompany their child to the nursery
- please put your child's necessities in their basket, in the alley way on the way to the back garden
- children will need to wash their hands at the outdoor sink
- settling in will take place in the nursery back garden (weather permitting), with one adult allowed at a time, according to prearranged schedule
- all arrivals should be completed within half an hour of nursery opening time, when we will go into the classroom

- parents may not gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the building (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)
- parents and staff should not use public transport where possible

Operational Plans

- we already have an ideal small family group at our nursery and the children are in the same groups at all times each day
- we are also able to maintain the same teacher, myself and assistant, Bonnie, there will be no volunteers or additional staff
- there will be a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day
- where possible the children will have their own individual equipment and drawer for their work

Cleaning and hygiene: follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)

- ensure that all adults and children
 - frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. Review the guidance on hand cleaning
 - clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
 - are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
 - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available.
- where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units

- prop doors open only if they are not fire doors, and where it is safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting
- ensuring that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time

What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive

They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Should educational settings ask parents to report pupils' temperatures at the start of each day?

Parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

Will children and young people be eligible for testing?

All children and young people eligible to attend education and childcare settings, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to priority testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work. in supporting children and young people.