

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent,

As part of the phased re-opening of our early years settings to more children we want to reinforce key expectations to parents/carers during this time. It is vital that we all follow public health guidance to reduce the risk of infection.

1. **If anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, they need to STAY AT HOME:**
  - a. **Fever (greater than 37.8°C)**
  - b. **New persistent/continuous cough**
  - c. **Loss or change in taste or smell**
  
2. **The person with symptoms needs to stay at home and isolate for 7 days (from the day that symptoms start). If that person still has symptoms (other than cough or loss of taste/smell) after 7 days, they must continue to self-isolate until they feel better. Everyone else in the household needs to stay at home and isolate for 14 days.** This is because it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to develop in other household members. **Please do not leave the house and do not send children into their early years setting during this time.** If you don't have friends/family who can help deliver shopping, you can contact [Ealing Together](#) on 020 8825 7170 for support during this period of self-isolation. You can also visit [Ealing Families Directory](#) for information on food banks and other food distribution services offering support.
  
3. **The person with symptoms should access testing via the [NHS testing website](#) or by phoning 119. Do not wait; ask for a test as soon as possible after symptoms start. If it is your child who is displaying symptoms you can request a test on their behalf.** The current options to access testing will be via a drive-through testing site or by receiving a testing kit delivered to your home.
  
4. **If it is your child who has any of the above coronavirus symptoms, please let the early years setting know.** Although the symptoms may or may not be due to coronavirus, the early years setting may consider informing parents in your child's setting, so they can be aware of the potential exposure. The identity will of course be anonymous. Each family's circumstances vary, and we want to be transparent with this information so that families can have the information to manage the risk. For example, a family who has



elderly relatives living with them may be extra vigilant to keep children away from these elderly relatives over the next few days (e.g. avoiding shared spaces). As testing capacity/speed improves, we will review the need to do this over the next few months

**5. If your child has tested positive for coronavirus, please let the early years setting know.**

Following a positive test result, you should be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service, requesting you provide information about recent 'close contacts'. The early years setting will be liaising with Public Health England to manage this situation and will likely involve recommending 'close contacts' of your child (e.g. the class/'bubble') to self-isolate for 14 days. The early years setting will also inform parents and staff that there is a confirmed case in the setting although of course identity will be kept anonymous.

**6. If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at the early years setting** the setting will ask all 'close contacts' (e.g. children and staff in the 'bubble') to isolate for 14 days, and strongly encourage any child/adult who develops symptoms to [apply for testing](#).

We are pleased that more children can access the benefits of being at their early years setting and the settings are making considerable efforts to implement measures to reduce the risk of infection.

We all need to play our part in the effort to reduce the risk of infection in early years settings and in our community by:

- **Staying at home as much as possible.**
- **[Staying safe outside your home](#), including by maintaining social distancing (at least 2 metres) when near people who are not your household members**
- **Wearing [cloth face coverings](#) when in crowded public spaces (e.g. public transport and shops) to protect others.**
- **[Washing your hands](#) regularly and have good [respiratory hygiene](#).**

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is a stylized, cursive signature that appears to be 'Wendy Meredith'. The second signature is also in cursive and clearly reads 'Judith Finlay'.

Wendy Meredith and Judith Finlay

Interim Director of Public Health & Executive Director for Children's, Adult's and Public Health

