

Infection Control

It is a duty of parents and carers to ensure that a child is well enough to attend the Playgroup. Some illnesses are contagious and when a child is suffering from these they should not be brought into the setting. The community should be protected from the spread of infection.

Sometimes there will be people in the setting who are extra vulnerable to illness, e.g. pregnant mothers or infants. Children's care plans should show if they are at increased risk from infections.

If someone is taken unwell during session they should return home/ seek treatment at the earliest opportunity.

After episodes of **vomiting and diarrhoea** there must be a period of **48 hours** after the last bout before a child returns to the Playgroup. A child should stay away from Playgroup with a **high temperature** until the fever stops. NHS Inform should be referenced for latest public health guidance: <https://www.nhsinform.scot>.

Regular and thorough handwashing is encouraged for all staff, children, and helpers. It is the best defence against the spread of common infections. Hand sanitiser should be available at key points in the setting for all. Cuts should be covered with plasters. Tissues should be available to children and disposed of immediately.

Toys, especially popular toys, should be washed regularly. The children should be involved with this to encourage knowledge of hygiene.

The environment should be kept clean and procedures to ensure this shall be followed.

A daily check of the environment should take place to ensure standards of cleaning.

Snack and toileting must be dealt with at a distance from one another.

When performing intimate care or preparing snack suitable equipment should be used, e.g. gloves for preparing food and cleaning, and toileting, and gloves and apron for nappy-changing.

Blood and bodily fluids must be treated with caution, and people in the setting not exposed to infection from this source.

Waste must be disposed of carefully in designated bins.

Practitioners must be trained in infection control as part of induction, and updates to national guidance as required, using national Public Health Guidance for children and young people's settings to support practice:

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education-version-1/#section-1>

Updated by:

Louise Gourmelen, Manager

Carol Malkin, Lead Practitioner

June 2023, April 2024



**Holy Corner
Community Playgroup**