



SICKNESS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

Purpose: To prevent the spread of communicable diseases at nursery and to eliminate, if not minimize, the incidence and severity of each ailment or illness. To outline the policies and procedures the nursery has in place to manage sickness absence and returning to nursery.

Definitions:

Sickness: the condition of being ill or vomiting

Illness: a disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind.

Bacterial Infection: An infection caused by bacteria. The growth of many disease-causing bacteria can be halted by the use of antibiotics.

Viral Infection: Infection caused by the presence of a virus in the body.

Policy Statement & Procedures:

This policy aims to –

- ensure that the health and wellbeing of children and staff is taken seriously and that all precautions are taken to look after them;
- provide procedures to be followed in regard to sickness absence, including the reporting, recording and management of sickness absence in a fair and consistent manner;
- provide guidance around supporting parents, children and staff while they are absent and to help them to return to, and remain at nursery, wherever possible

This policy applies equally to staff and children.

- Fever reducers (such as Adol, Calpol, Advil, and Panadol) or Ibuprofen (such as Nurofen, Brufen,) should not be given to your child, or taken by staff prior to arriving at nursery, as this will just mask the signs and symptoms of any underlying illness and the need to give it, indicates that you/your child is still not well enough to attend.

- You/your child must be at least 24 hours **free** of fever (38° Celsius or above), without the use of the fever reducers mentioned above, before reporting back to nursery.
- All sick children/staff who have been diagnosed with communicable diseases and have been absent for two or more consecutive weekdays, should report back to nursery with a doctor's note stating that they are fit to attend and cannot pass on any viruses or bacteria.
- All children are assessed daily, from head to toe, by our nurse and early collection may be requested for children that are deemed unwell.

Stay at home policy

Parents are requested to keep their children at home until they are fully recovered from the illnesses, ailments or conditions detailed below. If they are displaying any of the below symptoms, our nurse will ask for you to collect your child and take them home. This is in the best interests of the entire nursery community in promoting health and wellbeing for all –

1. High Temperature: 38.0 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) indicates a fever which could be an underlying symptom of a certain condition, most often an infection, (viral or bacterial).
2. Cold – Please do not bring your child to nursery if they have a runny nose, showing green mucus as this indicates that an infection is still present. Colds are manifested by sneezing, a stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, coughing, headaches and body aches. If symptoms last more than 2 weeks, please visit your family doctor.
3. Eye Discharge - Any child with white or yellow eye discharge, eye pain, or redness in the eye, eyelid or skin surrounding the eye should remain at home and be checked by a physician.
4. Uncontrollable Cough
5. Rash - A child with an unidentified rash should remain at home and be cleared by a physician prior to reporting back to nursery. A rash can often precede common infectious diseases like Measles, Hand Foot and Mouth Disease, and Chicken Pox.
6. Vomiting - Recurring upset stomach (more than 2 episodes) or vomiting accompanied by a fever.
7. Frequent loose stools – Frequent diarrhoea or very loose stools, not related to food or when associated with another illness.
8. Swollen Throat – evidence or complaints of throat discomfort might be easily spread to other children by means of coughing, sneezing and hand shaking.
9. Head Lice – untreated head lice can easily be passed to other children. Please complete a full treatment and have your child checked by our nurse before bringing them back to nursery.
10. Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease – This is a common illness seen at nursery and is unfortunately contagious before any symptoms are present. Please do not bring your child

back to nursery if they still have weeping or wet sores. Once sores are dry, they are no longer infectious.

11. Molluscum warts/water warts – A viral infection of the skin resulting in small, raised pink lesions. If your child is diagnosed with molluscum warts, please ensure they are covered at all times by clothing or plasters while at nursery to prevent the spread of infection.

POST COVID AMENDMENT:

Covid 19 Symptoms

As identified by the authorities in the UAE the symptoms of COVID- 19 include a fever, cough or shortness of breath, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and/ or loss of taste or smell. Abdominal and neck pain, vomiting and diarrhea, a rash or feeling tired are additional symptoms seen in children. A child's fever is considered high if it is 37.5 C or above.

Isolation

In the event that, a child/staff member is displaying COVID 19 symptoms in the nursery premises, a protocol for isolating children is followed. The child is isolated instantly in the designated isolation room, assisted by the nurse, and the parent/ guardian/ emergency contact is notified immediately. The parent/ guardian/ emergency contact will have to pick up the child within 1 hour. The child will be referred to the hospital to take the necessary action. The child should not return to the nursery until the PCR result is obtained.

Follow up after symptoms

If the result is negative and there is a clinical assessment of a probable COVID-19 case, the child/staff member should complete a 14-day quarantine. If the result is negative and there is no clinical assessment for a probable case, the child can resume nursery so long as they are symptom-free.

Suspension of nursery operations

If the result is positive, the nursery is to be closed immediately. The traced contacts of the child, including staff members along with children from the same bubble, or colleagues are all considered potential carriers or prospective sufferers of Covid 19. They should be contacted at the earliest and be informed about the confirmation. (A close contact is anyone who has spent more than 15 minutes in a proximity of 2 meters with the positive case, from the day of symptoms onset, or the day of the positive PCR test).

They should all commence the 14-day quarantine counted from the day of the positive test, or from the day of the onset of symptoms if ascertained by the clinician. They are not to return unless they are granted a clearance certificate by MOHAP stating that they are discharged from isolation.

In cases of COVID-19 emergency, the nursery will follow its endorsed guidelines for emergencies by the nursery's nurse while wearing adequate personal protection equipment.

Also, it will be ensured that the child is accompanied by their parent when transported to home or to the hospital.

After the child left the isolation room is cleaned, disinfected, PPE disposed of as per the guidelines.

The **weekly declaration forms** requested from the parents to be signed will cover the below:

- ‘When to keep a child at home’ and inform the nursery:
 - When the child is generally feeling unwell
 - If the child or any family members are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Children experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must only return to the nursery after receiving approval from a doctor and a negative COVID-19 test result.
- Permitting the child to have daily health screenings at the nursery
- Informing the nursery, prior to sending the child who has been in direct exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case back to the nursery.
- Any child who tests positive for or who has been exposed to COVID-19, is requested to report results to the nursery principal, who will be able to carry out the proper procedures – will abide by the contact tracing procedures and provide MOHAP with all records needed to trace potential contacts of the confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Any child who travel abroad must adhere to all UAE authority requirements, including any self-isolation and testing requirements.
- Travel declaration forms are required for all those who travel; these must be submitted to the nursery prior to travel occurring and re-confirmed before returning to the nursery.
- Anyone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms when returning from travel must not come to the nursery, ensure they notify the nursery immediately and self-isolate.
- The nursery will be monitoring absence trends and giving a courtesy call after 2 days of absence.

Implementation Documents:

OSN General Hygiene and Sanitation Policy 2020

OSN Healthy Eating & Nutrition Policy 2020

OSN First Aid and Medical Administration Policy 2020

OSN Health Care Providers Policy 2020

OSN Emergencies & Critical Incidents Policy 2020

Date of Review: September 2020

Date of Next Review: September 2021

Signed on Behalf of the Setting:

Printed Name of Signatory: Matilda Fel Gyori

Designation of Signatory: Nursery Manager

SICKNESS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY DECLARATION

I, _____, the parent of _____,

confirm that I have read and acknowledge Orange Seed Nursery's Sickness & Communicable Disease Policy and will abide by the rules and recommendations.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

A copy of this signed declaration will be kept at the nursery.