



Little Nippers Childcare Limited  
Directors: C. Paternotte-Chilton & J. Chilton  
Mudge Way  
Plymouth  
PL7 2AQ  
Ofsted: EY454562

March 17th 2021.

Re: Staff Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device testing

Dear Parents/Carers,

From the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the government recommends that nursery staff be tested twice weekly for Covid-19 using lateral flow devices. The idea behind screening asymptomatic staff is to quickly identify anyone positive for Covid-19 and isolate them, thus reducing the possibility of spreading the virus. We are taking these necessary steps and following government guidance, as we have done throughout the pandemic, to promote the safety of our staff, children and their families. Unfortunately, it may have repercussions on your childcare and could mean you will need to find alternative childcare at short notice. We apologise in advance for the disruption that any restrictions will undoubtedly cause but we will communicate any developments with you as quickly as we reasonably can. We have summarised below the steps we will be taking:

- On Monday and Thursday evenings, staff will take a Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device test at home. This is not mandatory, but we are encouraging our staff to get tested.
- Staff will inform the duty manager of the result by 7pm.
- **We will inform you of any positive result by 8pm on the same day.** Information will be sent by text and will be posted on our website. We will put a note on Facebook asking you to check your phone for messages.
- Should any staff member test positive, they will have to self-isolate for 10 days.
- Any staff member who worked with the staff who tested positive will also have to self-isolate for 10 days.
- This means that the room the staff member who tested positive worked in will have to shut for 10 days as all staff will be self-isolating.
- Text messages will be sent as a group text to all parents so please check the information about what room will have to close.
- If your child was in the room for the two days prior to the positive result, they will also have to self-isolate (but not you).
- If your child attends part-time and was not in the room for the two days prior to the positive test, they will not have to self-isolate. If staff numbers at nursery permit, that child will be allowed on the premises normally, but this is conditional to nursery having enough non-isolating staff members and an understanding that they will be cared for in a different age group (but still within the relevant staff:child ratio)

- If your child or you develop symptoms of a Covid-19 infection, please book a test via the government website at the earliest opportunity.
- We will offer a 50% discount on the days your child's room is closed.

To minimise the risk of children and staff catching/spreading the virus, we will continue to keep following the government's advice on distancing and hygiene. We have hand sanitiser stations outside the main gate and the side gate; staff wash their hands before exiting and entering each room; staff do not mix outside their working bubbles; staff wear masks when not in their bubble; staff keep to a 2m distance whenever feasible; children's hands are washed regularly; toys and surfaces are regularly cleaned.

We appreciate this is potentially going to be disruptive for you, as it will be for us, and we hope that we will not have to resort to any closure but we all need to be prepared for every eventuality.

Since the beginning of this pandemic 12 months ago, we have always greatly appreciated your cooperation and support and we will continue to do our best to care for your children in the safest way possible.

Sincerely,



Caroline

Dr Caroline Paternotte-Chilton  
Director  
Little Nippers Childcare