

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update New Guidelines 16/03/2020

The Government yesterday afternoon updated their advice on the coronavirus Covid-19. Although, at present, schools and educational settings, such as Pippins, can remain open, **the guidelines for isolation changed on Monday 16th March**. If your child or anyone in your household has a temperature and/or experiences a **new** continuous cough, **everyone in the household should self-isolate for 14 days**.

The Government guidelines state:

- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period. (See [ending isolation](#) section for more information)
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If anyone who has contact with your child contracts the Coronavirus, then please do let the preschool know immediately. If a child begins to present these symptoms while at the setting then we will be contacting the parent/carer and they will need to be collected, taken home and stay in isolation with you and the rest of the household for 14 days.

Whilst we continue to follow the latest Government advice for educational settings to remain open, the new guidelines for self-isolation could well affect our staffing levels and ability to operate as usual. Pippins is receiving updates from the local authority on the Covid-19 situation and we will respond to any further advice that is given in the coming days and weeks in order to protect all the children and staff at setting. We will try our utmost to continue to open for as long as our staffing levels allow, or until the local authority and government advise otherwise. We will notify you via email with any changes to our opening hours / decisions to close and will also post this on our Facebook page. Could we take this opportunity to request that you check with the preschool office that we have the correct contact numbers and email addresses on record for you.

Again, we would like to reassure all our parents and carers that we are doing everything we can to reduce the risk of infection. Everyone is asked to wash their hands frequently and the children have been joining in with a song about washing our hands and learning about the need to wash our hands regularly and how to do this effectively.

Please follow these links for any further information on the coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We thank you for your understanding and support as we work through these challenging times and we will keep you all updated as soon as we have any more information.

Kind regards

Mandy, The Pippins Staff Team and Pippins Preschool Management Committee