



Sickness and illness

Children should not be left at Link Club if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at Link Club with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the Link Club:

- If a child becomes ill during the Link Club day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to Link Club until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- If a child requires antibiotics, they will only be allowed back into Link Club 48 hours AFTER the first dose has been administered.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, chicken pox or hand foot & mouth, to protect other children in the Link Club. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the Link Club, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
- All agencies such as, Environmental Health, Ofsted and Local Authority will be notified of incidents of notifiable diseases and the death of a child or adult.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the Link Club day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course
- The Link Club has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- Information/posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the Link Club so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Covid 19 Procedure

If anyone becomes unwell whilst at Link Club with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we will contact their parent/carer immediately. The child will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. This includes asking the parent/carer to arrange a PCR test for the child where possible, and should notify the Link Club if this is positive.

Whilst the child is awaiting collection they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child, and with appropriate adult supervision (ensuring safeguarding and PPE procedures are met).

Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. Where it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least two metres away from other people.

They will be comforted and reassured whilst waiting for collection, as per our usual policy.

In an emergency, we would call 999.



If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected, using standard cleaning products, before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency staff will call a manager and 999 if they are seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any children who have been in close contact with them, do not need to go home to self-isolate. However, they must self-isolate and arrange for a test if they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test), if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household disinfectant after they have left, to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home guidance](#).

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the Link Club that their child has meningitis, the Link Club manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the Link Club, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, an ambulance will be called immediately. NO attempt to transport a sick child will be made in a staff members own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the parent will be contacted and arrangements made to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
- A calm atmosphere should be kept within the Link Club at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	6 th March 2012
Date for review	April 2023