

## **Covid 19: Hand Hygiene Policy**

### **Gloves available at all times**

#### **Staff**

Hand hygiene is essential to reduce the transmission of infection in the MVNS setting.

Arriving and leaving the setting: All staff must thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water on first entering the setting and as they leave.

Staff are asked, for now, not to wear any hand jewellery (except a simple wedding ring if wanted) at the setting in order to minimize possible contamination.

Beyond normal hand hygiene practices followed in the setting, hand hygiene will now also be carried out immediately after every episode of direct care of a child or after any activity or contact that potentially results in hands becoming contaminated - ie equipment, toys, fixtures.

Please use soap and water whenever possible; alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) if not.

To wash hands:

- expose forearms (bare below the elbows)
- move your ring if you are wearing one, during hand washing.
- ensure finger nails are clean, short and that artificial nails or nail products are not worn
- hands must be washed thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.

If it is known or possible that forearms have been exposed to respiratory secretions (for example cough droplets) or other body fluids, hand washing should be extended to include both forearms. Wash the forearms first and then wash the hands.

#### **Children:**

Arriving at the setting: All children will be given hand rub (ABHR) when they first arrive at the setting door, then once they are in the setting, taken by staff to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly.

Children are asked to wear no hand or wrist jewellery at the setting in order to minimize possible contamination.

On top of normal hand-washing procedures (ie before and after food, after going to the toilet) children will be asked to wash their hands (with soapy water when possible, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer when not) if a member of staff believes doing so can contribute towards the prevention of transmission of covid-19 (ie sneezing, coughing, picking their nose) and at least once an hour.

Parents/carers are also asked to ensure children's finger nails are clean and short when they come into nursery.

If staff think that forearms have been exposed to, for example cough droplets, or other body fluids on a child, hand washing can be extended to include both forearms.

Immediately before leaving the setting, the children will again wash their hands with soap and water.