HALESFIELD DAY NURSERY | POLICIES & PROCEDURES

3.3 Managing children who are sick, infectious or with allergies

Our nursery is committed to the health and safety of all children and staff who play, learn and work here. It may be necessary for a child who becomes unwell to be collected early or to remain at home while recovering.

Managing illness at nursery

Parents/carers will be contacted promptly if their child becomes unwell and needs to go home. While waiting, the child will be comforted, supervised closely by a familiar adult and supported away from other children where practicable without leaving them unattended.

If a child is seriously unwell, has breathing difficulties, becomes unresponsive or shows signs of a severe allergic reaction, staff will call 999 immediately, administer appropriate first aid or prescribed emergency treatment and contact parents/carers as soon as possible.

Children and staff should not attend when too unwell to participate safely or when an applicable UKHSA exclusion period applies. A blanket 24-hour period after every illness is not required; return is based on recovery and the infection-specific guidance below.

Parents/carers should notify the nursery of relevant infectious illnesses, including illness arising outside nursery hours. The nursery will take proportionate hygiene and infection-control measures and seek UKHSA Health Protection Team advice when indicated.

Information sharing and reporting

Where an infectious illness may affect other families, the nursery will provide relevant, proportionate information about symptoms and precautions without identifying the affected child or family.

The nursery will seek advice from the local UKHSA Health Protection Team about suspected outbreaks and infections where the published guidance recommends contact. Clinicians have specific statutory duties to notify suspected notifiable diseases; the nursery will cooperate with public health advice and notify Ofsted of any serious illness, injury or death where required by the EYFS, as soon as reasonably practicable and within the statutory timescale.

The nursery will not use a blanket “three cases” rule for Ofsted notification. Staff will document decisions, advice received and any notifications made.

Head lice

Head lice do not require exclusion. Parents/carers will be informed sensitively and given advice about checking and treating head lice. Communications to other families will preserve confidentiality.

Minimum exclusion periods — selected infections

This is a practical summary of UKHSA guidance; staff must check the live UKHSA exclusion table for less common infections, outbreak advice and changes to recommendations.

Infection	Guidance
Chickenpox	5 days after rash first appears; ensure child is well enough to return
Rubella (German measles)	5 days after rash starts
Hand, foot and mouth	No routine exclusion if otherwise well
Impetigo	Until blisters scab or 48 hours after antibiotics start
Measles	4 days after rash starts; contact Health Protection Team
Scabies (children aged 5 and under)	24 hours after first treatment
Scarlet fever	24 hours after starting antibiotics
Shingles	If spots cannot be covered or have not scabbed
Slapped cheek	No routine exclusion
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Influenza / respiratory infections	Until well enough and no high temperature; follow UKHSA advice
Whooping cough	2 days after starting antibiotics, or 21 days after symptoms begin without antibiotics
COVID-19	Stay home with more than mild symptoms, for

	example high temperature
Conjunctivitis	No routine exclusion
Hepatitis A	7 days after symptoms begin
Mumps	5 days after swelling starts
Head lice / threadworms	No routine exclusion
Tuberculosis / diphtheria	Follow clinical and Health Protection Team advice

Allergies and anaphylaxis

When children start at the nursery, parents are asked about known allergies and relevant medical conditions, and these are recorded on the enrolment form. Parents should tell the nursery promptly about changes.

For children with severe allergies, staff will complete an individual risk assessment and, where appropriate, an individual healthcare or allergy action plan with parents and healthcare professionals. This will identify the allergen, symptoms, preventive controls, prescribed medicines, emergency response, staff training and review arrangements.

Staff responsible for a child will know where their allergy plan and prescribed emergency medication are kept. Emergency medication must be securely managed but immediately accessible to trained staff when needed. Staff will call 999 for suspected anaphylaxis and follow the child's emergency plan.

Food allergy information is shared with relevant staff, including those preparing and serving food, while respecting confidentiality. Ingredient checks, prevention of cross-contact and supervision at mealtimes will be followed.

Halesfield Day Nursery is a nut-free setting. Nuts and nut-containing foods are not knowingly used or brought into nursery. Families and staff are informed of this rule; the nursery cannot guarantee an entirely allergen-free environment and continues to use individual risk assessments and precautions.

Infection prevention and review

Staff follow handwashing, cleaning, nappy-changing, bodily-fluid and food-hygiene procedures, using appropriate protective equipment. Relevant incidents and public health advice are recorded, and procedures are reviewed following significant incidents or changes in guidance.

Guidance: EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (September 2026); UKHSA Health protection in children and young people's settings (updated September 2026); UKHSA public health exclusion periods.