Town Street Playgroup Covid 19 Outbreak Management Plan September 2021

This plan is written in response to Government guidance about the response to be taken should an outbreak of Covid 19 be identified at Town Street Playgroup.

**Contingency framework: education and childcare settings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

**Actions for Early years and Childcare Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/actions-for-early-years-and-childcare-providers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

What is an Outbreak?

* If Town Street Playgroup identifies “several confirmed cases within 14 days” this may constitute an outbreak. The PHE guidance defines an outbreak as TWO or more children or members of staff in your setting who have TESTED POSITIVE, with illness onset dates within 14 days of each other
* if there is an overall rise in the rate of absences that are suspected to be COVID-19 related.

 Management and Notification of Confirmed Cases

* We will promptly report to Department for Education advice line on 08000468687 and selecting option 1 for advice on the action to take in response to a positive case.
* If DfE considers an outbreak to be taking place, they will escalate the notification to the local health protection team and advise on additional action required.
* All cases must also be reported to Ofsted using the online notification
* We will follow the advice of Local Authorities, local Public Health teams and PHE Health Protection Teams who will make further recommendations.

Engagement with NHS Test and Trace

* Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. We will engage with NHS contact trace process by providing appropriate contact and attendance information as requested.
* NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts directly with the positive case.
* NHS Test and Trace will provide information about next steps to those close contacts identified

Reintroduction of Control Measures

* If an outbreak is confirmed, Town Street Playgroup will continue to work with health protection teams to identify which control measures in our original risk assessment need to be reactivated.

Communication to Parents

If an outbreak is confirmed, parents/carers will be contacted as a priority to come and collect their child. Parents will be contacted by email to inform them of the situation and any next steps required by themselves and Town Street Playgroup.

Attendance Restrictions

Attendance restrictions will only ever be considered as a short-term measure and as a last resort.

However, Town Street Playgroup may have to close, on public health advice in extreme cases where other recommended measures have not broken chains of in-setting transmission; or across a local area, on government advice to supress or manage a dangerous variant and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

In line with Town Street Playgroup Contingency Plan Policy, staff absence due to Covid 19 may mean that prioritised places only can be offered. These will be offered in order to:

• Vulnerable children

• Critical/Key worker children

• 3 and 4 year olds (in age order)

If more than one member of staff is absent, and if adequate supervision cannot be provided and the safety of the children would be compromised, the Leader will decide to close Playgroup.