

Dear Town and Community Council

Summer Playscheme – Managing Covid Cases

Inevitably we have had our first few cases of children attending the play schemes testing positive for Covid-19. We have taken advice from Public Health Wales, BCHUB and Welsh Government and have agreed an approach that has been signed off by the Chief Executive in his capacity as Gold Commander. We tested this approach last week with our first cases and it appears to have worked well.

Our aim is **NOT** to have isolate all children who attended a playscheme on a day when a positive case was unknowingly in their infectious period. The Test Trace and Protect Service (TTP) will check out with the parent of the child who they played with and whether the definitions of a close contact were met. Only in these cases would we have to instruct other children to isolate. Our rationale has been:

- The playscheme is delivered in the outdoors so fresh air and sunshine will minimise the spread of the virus.
- The balance of harm by discontinuing the playscheme outweighs the risk of onward transmission between the children – children are identified as a low risk group anyway and the majority of adults in the community have now received their vaccinations.
- Children are in desperate need for this activity for their physical and mental health.
- Families are dependent on these schemes as part of their summer holiday childcare arrangements.
- All covid secure measures for the playscheme are in place and approved by Health and Safety colleagues.
- There are no organised games as part of the provision which would potentially result in close contact between children.
- All staff maintain a 2m distance and take twice weekly LFDs. No positive test results have yet been logged at any playscheme.
- All staff are fully trained in Covid-safe play and are actively monitoring the children and encouraging safe interactions.
- Where toilet provision is made, this is closely supervised by staff with the use of hand gel before and after use as well as hand washing and regular cleaning of the facilities
- All pupils are individually registered and their contact details are available.
- We cannot send children away from a playscheme on the day if a notification comes in shortly before it starts as this would present a safeguarding issue. Many arrive on their own without parental supervision and parents know

where they are for that fixed period of time. We are acting in loco parentis at that time.

We have a standard letter to inform the parents whose children were in attendance at a scheme when a positive case (unknowingly) was present– it will say:

- There has been a positive case of Covid-19 within a group of children who were in attendance at the playscheme on a specified date.
- There has been a risk based approach and a decision made not to cancel the playscheme as it is a well-managed outdoor activity with appropriate covid measures in place.
- Parents can choose to withdraw their children from the scheme if they are concerned.
- Parents should be vigilant if their child continues to attend the scheme – if their child shows any Covid symptoms they **MUST NOT** attend the scheme and book a PCR test (letter includes the list of symptoms and how to book a test).
- Any child with a positive test must complete their isolation period in line with TTP advice – we will try and reoffer the child a slot later in the holidays, space permitting, to make up for their lost sessions.

If the tracing activity identifies that a significant number of children have been identified as close contacts then we may have no option but to isolate larger groups of children. However, if there is a risk of the playscheme being disrupted then we will make contact with you immediately to outline the issues and come to an agreed position.

We hope this approach provides you with reassurance. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Janet Roberts, Play Manager on 07518 602614 or email janet.a.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk

Kind regards
Claire

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Rwy'n gweithio'n hyblyg. Peidiwch â theimlo bod yn rhaid i chi ymateb i'r e-bost hwn rhwng 5.00 yr hwyr a 9.00 y bore.

I work flexibly. Please do not feel obliged to respond to this email between 5.00pm and 9.00am.

