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| Dear Parent/Carer/Colleague, |
| Following our email to you on the 28th February we wanted to write to you again based on the updated government guidance and their strategy for ‘living with COVID’. |
| Since the start of the pandemic, we have always looked to put in place policies that are seen to be fair and transparent as to their logic. |
| The most recent changes have shifted a lot of the responsibility for setting guidelines from the government to employers/business through the removal of certain legal enforcements. More detail of these changes, specific to early years can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19). |
| We have sought advice from our regulatory bodies and would look to adapt our policies as outlined below from 4th April 2022. These will be kept under constant review and updated to align with any future government announcements. |
| **Confirmed Positive Cases in Children** |
| From the 4thApril 2022 and as per the Government guidance we are reducing the number of days we will be requesting for children who test positive to stay at home and self-isolate, from 5 to 3 full days. This is not a decision we have taken lightly and something we will keep under constant review. We are continuing to issue isolation credits (up to 3 days) for sessions missed due to a child testing positive for COVID-19. |
| **Confirmed Positive Cases in Practitioners** |
| As Employers we have a duty of care to our employees to provide a safe working environment. However, an important change from 4th April 2022 is the removal of the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments. That being said, we feel strongly that it is our duty for this to continue to be reviewed and updated. |
| Having reviewed our risk assessments we no longer require practitioners to notify us if they test positive for COVID-19 and no longer ask for you to self-isolate. |
| To view our risk assessment please follow this [link](https://www.athertonhouse.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/covid-19-risk-assessment-April-2022.pdf). |
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| We appreciate that there may still be individuals in the workplace concerned about catching COVID-19, particularly those who may be clinically vulnerable or who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable. We will work with such individuals to find workable solutions to certain circumstances surrounding COVID-19. |
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| **Sickness and Illness Policy** |
| We wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents of our sickness policy, something which has long been common practice across early years. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers. We appreciate the knock-on implications of requesting a child to be collected and want to reassure you we only do so in the best interest of your child. |
| Many thanks for you continued understanding and cooperation, |
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| Alice, Tim and George Apel |
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