

Skool Is Out COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures for Parents/Carers (October Camp 2021)



All guidelines and procedures are as outlined in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for School Age Childcare Services](#) document. Please note, all of the above procedures are correct as of 6th September 2021 and are subject to change in line with any changes to government guidelines or local Coronavirus Protection Alert Levels.

Coronavirus Protection Alert Levels

We have now moved beyond level 0 of the Coronavirus Protection/Alert Level system, meaning that some of the mitigations previously in place are no longer necessary. We will, however, continue to deploy numerous risk mitigation protocols across our childcare services to further enhance our infection prevention and control measures, as per the relevant government guidelines.

Collection/Drop-off Procedures

Footfall will continue to be minimised across the premises and parents/carers will be expected to wait outside when dropping off and collecting children. Parents/carers should maintain a minimum of 1 meter physical distance from others, use hand gels provided before pressing buzzers, and ensure face coverings are worn at all times when dropping off or collecting children, even when outdoors.

Group Bubbles/Cohorts

There are now no restrictions placed on group sizes when cohorting children and, thus, we will be operating one holiday club specific childcare group, as per the arrangements over summer. Please note, owing to staffing absences and ongoing capacity restrictions at our premises, we will again be operating at reduced capacity for our October provision.

Should the Coronavirus Protection Level change we may re-introduce group bubbles/cohorts with immediate effect, based on the most up-to-date guidance.

Outdoor Play

We will continue to maximise outdoor play opportunities for children in line with best-practice guidelines, and have planned activities to be based outdoors as much as possible. Please ensure children have appropriate outdoor clothing for all weather conditions.

Infection Prevention and Control

Enhanced protocols will remain in place, including physical distancing between adults, wearing of face coverings for staff while based indoors, promotion of good hand and respiratory hygiene, twice daily cleaning of touch surfaces and resources, vigilance to COVID-19 symptoms and adherence to the relevant isolation protocols, increased signage and implementation of one way systems.

Self-Isolation

From 9th August, close contacts for those aged over 5 but under 18 will be released from the requirement to self-isolate subject to a negative PCR test. This would mean that close contacts (as identified by NHS Test and Protect) over the age of 5 but under 18 will be advised to book a PCR test as soon as possible, and only end self-isolation and return to the childcare setting if they receive a negative PCR test result. This decision reflects the relative risks of COVID-19 infection, transmission, and harms amongst the under 18s, and the significant and sustained educational harms that result from previous self-isolation policies.

Ventilation

Enhanced ventilation will be in place and windows and doors may be open during the session, where possible. Our venues have large halls with high ceilings and we will be undertaking outdoor play wherever possible.

Staffing

We will be operating with an October Camp specific staffing group to ensure consistency and to minimise risk as much as possible. All staff working over our October Holiday Club will continue to take twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests.

Trips, Outings and Workshops

Please note that, as with our summer holiday provision earlier this year, all scheduled trips, outings and workshops may be subject to change at short notice for a variety of factors. Any changes to local Coronavirus Protection Alert Levels, closure of premises for reasons out-with our control, or individuals or venues being unavailable due to self-isolation or COVID outbreaks may all result in the cancellation of scheduled trips or workshops at short notice.

Where possible we will endeavour to arrange an alternative activity for children attending, and will try to provide as much notice as possible to parents/carers about any changes.

Children's Personal Effects

At Protection Level 0 and beyond children can now bring in items from home, but we will still discourage this to minimise the risk of cross contamination. Any items from home are also brought into the club at children's own risk. Please note, we do not permit items such as mobile telephones or hand-held games consoles at the holiday club.

Communication and Visits

The majority of our communications will continue to take place via email or over the phone, as opposed to in person. If you have any questions or concerns, or you wish to discuss please contact us via email, or contact the club directly at 07815798808.

Visits from parents/carers are only permitted to the club if it is essential as part of children's transition or wellbeing. Any visits should be arranged in advance and in consultation with the Childcare Manager.

Absence Notification

Please ensure we are notified if your child/ren will be absent from the club for any reason, and please ensure you inform us if their absence may be related to COVID-19 in any way. It is imperative that children do not attend our holiday provision if they, or anyone in their household, is displaying any of the common symptoms of COVID-19.

If a child displays symptoms

If a child displays symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in the setting, a specific allocated space with good ventilation will be made available, and parents/carers will be called to collect them immediately and to book a PCR test. The child will be supported by an allocated member of our staff team.

Thorough deep-cleaning of any used isolation spaces will be undertaken in line with the relevant guidelines and any potential outbreaks will be managed in collaboration with local Health Protection Teams and in accordance with the relevant guidelines and expectations.

If you or your child returns a positive PCR Test

If your child returns a positive test result you are required to notify us immediately in order that we can undertake the necessary protocols to ensure the health and safety of all other groups and their contacts. If you receive notification during the hours of club operation, please contact us on 07815798808 to inform the Childcare Manager. If you receive confirmation of a positive test out-with club hours (evenings or weekends), please email info@skoolisout.com with the subject: Positive COVID-19 Test Result, providing all relevant details (child's name, class, days/dates of attendance at the club). Any instance of a positive result will require your household to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, unless any of the stipulations outlined in the 'Self-isolation' section above apply.

Further Restrictions

Restrictions on the use of soft furnishings, malleable play equipment, 72 hours quarantining of resources from outside the club environment and resource sharing have now all been lifted. Likewise, children are now permitted to undertake singing as part of structured, planned play activities.

Wellbeing and Support

We are conscious that as cases increase across Scotland, there is significant anxiety relating to children's return to school and childcare environments. The Scottish Government have offered reassurances that childcare environments continue to be low risk, partly due to the significant mitigations that remain in place and significant guidance is available to help with wellbeing via [NHS Inform](#).

If you or your child/ren are experiencing heightened anxiety during this challenging period, please feel free to access the following resources:

- [Coronavirus: A Book for Children](#), illustrated by Axel Scheffler, offering guidance and reassurance for primary-aged children.
- [How to Stay Calm in a Global Pandemic](#) by Dr. Emma Hepburn, available for any adults suffering from stress or anxiety relating to the current situation.