

Updated FAQs 29 November

Can settings hold Christmas celebrations – parties, parents coming into settings (in the light of some team sports now being able to have spectators) for nativities etc.

Updated guidance can be found at section 3.5 Visitors to settings
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

Other visits by parents and carers

Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are necessary and make use of remote visits wherever possible.

In-person visits from parents can take place if they are necessary. Settings should work with parents to ensure parents still have visibility of the childcare environment during this time, including through use of remote visits, pictures and phone calls.

There is no reason why a Christmas party cannot take place with children due to attend on the day or session. However, parents attending for nativity plays etc would not be seen as necessary.

A local school has sent children home to isolate, but some have siblings that attend our setting. Some families are staying home with both children; Others are able to bring them in as they are able to leave the isolating child at home, but others are bringing the isolating child with them to drop off the pre-school child.

All collections and drop-offs occur outside.

Should isolating children be coming out of the house?

We have queried this with public health, and their response is that the isolating child can leave the house in the car only, to drop off other siblings. They must not leave the car or come into contact with anyone outside of their household. They cannot walk to school or early years settings to drop off other siblings. If the isolating child cannot be left in the car by themselves, other siblings in the household should stay at home too

As a childminder, if my own child has been sent home to isolate, do I need to contact anyone?. I am able to remain open as my child is old enough to isolate away from all minded children. If my child does display symptoms I aware that I will need to close. Do I contact public heath, DFE and Ofsted or is that just in the case of symptoms and positive test?

As you are able to stay open you don't need to let anyone know – if this changes and anyone in your household displays symptoms you need to let PHE and Ofsted know and email Early.Years@essex.gov.uk