

Somerset Early Years Entitlement Funding – Coronavirus Information Sheet

Early Years funding will be paid in the event of a setting being ordered to close by Public Health England (PHE) due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The Local Authority will look to support providers but will need to ensure that the latest advice from the government is followed. Regular updates will continue to be sent via email. Please also refer to the current [guidance from DfE](#) and NHS at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus. The Department for Education has a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday – Friday

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

FUNDING

There are several different scenarios that may impact on Early Years Funding with regards to self-isolation of staff and/or children, and advice from Public Health England (PHE). Please find below some examples of when funding will or will not be available to Somerset Entitlement Providers:

PHE orders a setting to close

- Funding will be paid because, subject to the individual circumstances and/ or advice from PHE, the child should not be attending another setting due to self-isolation.
- Providers where the child also attends another setting should ensure they notify the other setting e.g. in cases of dual placements.

Provider makes the decision to close the setting

- Funding will **not** be paid, and claims will need to be adjusted.

Child must self-isolate due to suspected/confirmed case of Coronavirus

- Funding will be paid

Staff member must self-isolate:

- If you need to reduce child spaces due to staffing reductions, please ensure you are within staff: child ratios. Consider how you will manage this with your families.
- If you are forced to close due to low numbers of staff (following staff members being in self-isolation), funding will continue to be paid subject to the Entitlements Team being notified by email – eyfunding@somerset.gov.uk

You may also want to consider how any private chargeable time will be managed at your setting if you experience any of the above situations.

Please check your policies and procedures and make sure parents are clear about payment arrangements in the event of sickness.

SUGGESTED CHECKLIST

1. Familiarise yourself with the latest travel advice and information about the affected areas
2. Check your business insurance – are you covered for business continuity if your nursery must close due to the virus spreading?
3. Check your Terms and Conditions to ensure that parents know where they stand in terms of payments if their child must stay away from nursery or your nursery must close for a period of time (Emergency closure policy / Fees policy).
4. Speak to staff about their understanding of the virus and what symptoms to look out for
5. Speak to parents and families who might be travelling to or coming back from affected areas about the latest health advice
6. Check your health and safety policies – are effective hygiene processes in place to limit the spread of viruses.