

Diabetes Care at School/ Nursery during Coronavirus

We know that schools and nurseries are working very hard to accommodate the safety and wellbeing of their pupils returning to school as the Government begins to ease the lockdown measures. To help with this the Diabetes Service would like to provide you with following information and guidance to enable you to consider the implications of changes to the school routine and environment due to Coronavirus for the pupils with Diabetes in your care.

Impact of Coronavirus on Diabetes

Children and young people with diabetes have no more risk of developing COVID-19 than any of their peers without diabetes. However, if they catch Coronavirus they may find that their condition is more difficult to managing and they are at risk becoming very unwell. For this reason people with Diabetes are placed in the “High risk” category and although they do not need to shield, strict social distancing and hygiene measures are essential.

Considerations in School/Nursery Environment

The diabetes care outlined in the pupil’s care plan remains the same. However the delivery of care may need consideration with an assessment of risk posed to the pupil:

- Whilst social distancing measures will be in place it is not always going to be possible to adhere to current recommendations of a 2 metre distance, especially with younger pupils who require help with glucose testing, injections and pump boluses. If a child requires help the school’s policy around wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be adhered to along with strict hand washing.
- If there are changes to the usual teaching environment e.g. moving to a different classroom/area of the school, more education in outside areas etc. The pupil’s diabetes supplies and equipment, especially if they are on Insulin pump therapy or continuous glucose monitoring, need to be near and accessible to them.
- It is usual for nurseries and also schools who have younger pupils or pupils with special needs to have identified members of support staff with diabetes training to either supervise or conduct diabetes care. It would therefore be important for theses members of staff to be working in accordance with the child’s finalised timetable.
- If staggered times are necessary to accommodate breaks and lunch and this alters the timing of when the pupil will eat, please discuss with their parents/carers and plan accordingly.
- If there are plans to have controls in place or staggered toilet times, a child with diabetes will need access to toilet facilities at any time.