

Additional Frequently Asked Questions ELC and School Age (Outdoor Settings)

This is additional guidance for fully outdoor childcare settings. Please see 'FAQs for Daycare of children's services' for further guidance.

Infection Control

Can children wash their hands in a bowl of water?

No. Children should not share water in a bowl for handwashing. As is standard practice in all early learning and childcare and out of school are settings, children should wash their hands in warm running water. More practical guidance can be found [here](#).

What does enhanced cleaning practices of hard surfaces mean?

You may have brought equipment or resources into the outdoor setting. Enhanced cleaning practices should be put in place where appropriate. This should include resources and equipment with hard surfaces to ensure they are cleaned frequently, thoroughly and between use by different groups of children and between sessions. These may include, chairs, tables, trolleys etc.

We use public toilets and hand washing facilities. Can these still be used?

Public facilities may still be closed at this time. You must ensure that alternative, appropriate toilet and handwashing facilities are available for children and staff.

If public facilities are open and accessible, you should consider their suitability in line with the [guidance](#), and your own risk assessment.

Operational Guidance

What if my setting does not fit the definition of an outdoor setting but I want to provide one?

You will be unable to adapt your existing premises-based setting however, if you wish you can apply to be registered to provide an outdoor setting. You should find the guidance [Out to Play](#) helpful when considering the expectations of a good quality outdoor setting.

You must apply to the Care Inspectorate to provide this new setting and we will process your application.

What kind of risk assessments do we have to carry out?

Generally, a risk assessment would have to cover the risk presented to the children and staff from COVID 19. Staff should be reducing risks by following the guidance around COVID-19. The Scottish Government has [produced guidance](#) to support workplaces with this.

In particular, this is relevant to those staff members who are returning to work after shielding, those who are returning to normal duties after COVID-19 related restrictions, those who are returning to the workplace after working from home or anyone who has a concern about a personal vulnerability to COVID-19.

The tool can be used to assess the risk and enable employers to support staff by introducing suitable controls. The assessment tool allows the employee to complete an individual risk assessment with their manager using the [COVID-19 occupational risk assessment tool](#). This will support staff and managers to agree a course of action on working duties.

Can children take home artwork?

Yes, they can. Risk assessment should consider minimising the number of people that touch the artwork. Parents and children should maintain strict hand washing.

Can we ask parents to complete paper records?

Wherever possible, records should be completed online – an email can be used as a record of signature. When completing paper records, risk assessments should determine the process for this considering practice that will minimise the risk of transmission. For instance, asking parents to use their own pen, effective hand washing or use of hand gel.

Do we need to submit the staff absence notification on a Tuesday?

Yes, this now also applies to daycare of children services (including nurseries, family centres, playgroups and out of school care).

Childminding services do NOT need to complete this.

We are asking that every Tuesday, services complete the COVID-19 staff absences notification. This notification asks about staff who are absent from work due to COVID-19 related reasons. We are sorry to place this extra burden on you at this time, but this information will help us support you better. It will also help the Scottish Government understand the challenges you are facing more fully, and plan for the solutions you need.

It is important that you submit this each week on a Tuesday as we will have to disregard information submitted any other day. This is in order to ensure we gather data that is accurate and consistent. We would like to thank you for undertaking this. You can access the notification through your eForms account [here](#).