



Coronavirus questions for childminders 24th March

Q. Should I be closed for all parents?

You should stay open and offer places to vulnerable children and children of key workers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Q. What if only one parent is a key worker?

You can still offer a place if only one parent qualifies. But the Government is clear that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

Q. Do I need proof that parent/s are key workers?

You should already be aware of their occupations so it wouldn't be required but if you are not sure then you can ask for proof.

Q. Can I opt to close even if I normally care for children who are vulnerable or whose parents are key workers? What if I am worried about my own family and don't want any outside contact?

This very much depends on your situation and that of the families you work with. Of course as a self-employed person you may close your business at any time but please bear in mind all the advice and share your concerns with parents.

Q. Can I offer a place to a sibling or siblings of a vulnerable child?

The advice is that all children should be kept at home where possible. It's for you to work out with the parent what care is available for the sibling and use your professional judgement.

Q. What should I do about payment for children who have to stay at home?

At the moment there is no financial support available for self-employed workers. The situation is completely unprecedented so the scenario is unlikely to be included in your contract. Bear in mind that some parents may not both be earning now and try to work out with them the best solution to avoid any hardship where possible. The Government's Committee of the Whole House are discussing financial support for self-employed people and we hope there will be an announcement this week. You may wish to defer any decisions until the announcement.

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/amend/coronavirus_daily_cwh_0320rev.14-18.html

You may also be able to claim Universal Credit – more details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

Q. Can I claim for loss of earnings from my insurance company?

Some ins cim to include loss of revenue cover. However, Morton Michel have told us that Coronavirus is not listed in their insurer's list of notifiable diseases, even though it is one. Check with your insurer if you're not sure.

Q. Do I have to tell anyone who is still coming to my setting?

Local authorities have asked for a list of which children are still attending your setting. Please comply with their request to supply this information so they can report to government.

Q. Do I have to tell Ofsted if I am open or closed?

No.

Q. How do I claim funding for the 3&4 year olds who are not coming?

Your local authority should keep in touch with you about this, please make sure you check your emails and texts or contact them if you haven't heard.

Q. My first aid certificate runs out soon but I can't book a course yet, what should I do?

There are no courses running now but the Health & Safety Executive have confirmed that all first aid certificates dated after March 16th will be extended by 3 months until further notice.

Q. My inspection is due, will Ofsted still come?

No, all inspections, including registration inspections, are on hold for now. In an emergency they will inspect if they receive whistle-blowing information on children's safety. Ofsted are also pausing publishing Ofsted reports. The provider will still receive a copy, but they won't be published on the Ofsted website. It has also been decided Ofsted will pause all its work around handling complaints related to inspection reports.

Q. Can I report someone who is offering unregistered care?

Ofsted have said they will look at complaints like this on a case by case basis. In an emergency they will inspect if they receive whistle-blowing information on children's safety.