



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 2022

Dear Constance,

RE: COVID-19 TESTING RULES AND THE IMPACT ON CHILDMINDERS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of COVID-19 testing rules and their impact on childminders. I have read your comments on this pressing issue with interest.

I understand that previous guidance stated that childminders should not childmind in their home when someone living there tested positive, or had symptoms of COVID-19. However, I welcome that as of the 17th March, childminders with household members who either have COVID-19 symptoms, or have a positive test, are able to continue childminding from their home. Childminders are still advised to follow steps to reduce the risk of onward transmission, which includes the following:

- The person who has tested positive or has COVID-19 symptoms should avoid contact with the children being cared for in the setting;
- Where possible, separate toilet and handwashing facilities should be used. If this is not possible, extra cleaning and hygiene routines should be undertaken, particularly after the person who has tested positive has used the facilities;
- Parents and carers of the children attending the setting should be notified about the person who has tested positive, or has COVID-19 symptoms, as soon as possible;
- To reduce the chance of transmission, additional measures such as ventilation, extra cleaning and hygiene routines should be implemented; and
- Childminders should continue to comply with health and safety law by reviewing their risk assessment. The risk assessment must demonstrate that the provision of childcare in the setting is safe and how any additional, but proportionate, measures are to be put in place.

Childminders can also consider using alternative places to operate, such as other childminders' houses.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE