



Infection Control Policy

1. Policy Statement

Splatter & Spark is committed to providing a safe and hygienic environment for all children, vulnerable adults, families, staff and volunteers. Effective infection prevention and control is essential to reduce the risk of illness spreading during our sessions and events.

2. Aims

- To protect the health and wellbeing of all participants and staff.
- To ensure safe practices in messy play, sensory play and group activities.
- To comply with Irish Health & Safety legislation, HSE guidance and best practice.

3. Responsibilities

- **Management:** Ensures policies are implemented, reviewed and staff are trained.
- **Staff & Volunteers:** Always follow infection control procedures.
- **Parents/Carers:** Ensure children/adults do not attend sessions if unwell.

4. General Hygiene Practices

- Handwashing facilities (or sanitiser) available at all sessions.
- Hands must be washed:
 - Before preparing/eating food.
 - After toileting/nappy changes.
 - After messy/sensory play.
 - After coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.

- Cough/sneeze into elbow or tissue (“Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”).

5. Cleaning & Disinfection

- Equipment and materials cleaned after each session.
- High-touch surfaces (tables, handles, toys) disinfected regularly.
- Soft toys or absorbent materials washed or replaced frequently.
- Shared messy play/sensory materials replaced regularly and disposed of safely.

6. Illness Exclusion Guidelines

Children, vulnerable adults, staff, or volunteers should not attend if they have:

- Fever, vomiting, or diarrhoea (must be symptom-free for **48 hours** before return).
- Contagious conditions (e.g. chickenpox, flu, COVID-19, conjunctivitis).
- Unexplained rashes (medical clearance may be required).

7. Use of Protective Equipment

- Disposable gloves and aprons worn where appropriate (e.g. nappy changes, cleaning bodily fluids).
- PPE disposed of safely after single use.

8. Food & Drink

- Splatter & Spark do not provide food or drink during sessions/events.
- Families providing their own snacks must ensure allergy awareness and hygiene.

9. Waste Disposal

- Nappies, tissues, and contaminated waste disposed of in sealed bags and bins.
- Waste removed daily from venues.

10. Outbreaks / Public Health

- In the event of an outbreak of illness, Splatter & Spark will follow **HSE public health advice**.
- Families will be informed of any risks or closures.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if public health guidance changes.

Date Effective: 02/10/2025