



INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

COMMITTEE: Trust Board
DATE APPROVED: Awaiting Approval
POLICY REVIEW DATE:

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AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of, an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza or any contagious illness.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that infections such as influenza pandemics are not new. No-one knows exactly when the school will be faced with having to deal with a potentially contagious illness amongst its community.

We recognise the need to be prepared. Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as children may have no residual immunity, they could be amongst the groups worst affected. We recognise that closing the school may be necessary in exceptional circumstances in order to control an infection. However, we will strive to remain open unless advised otherwise. Good pastoral care includes promoting healthy living and good hand hygiene. School staff will give pupils positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with pupils.

PLANNING AND PREPARING

In the event of the school becoming aware that a pupil or member of staff has a significant infectious illness we would direct their parents to report to their GP and inform Public Health England (PHE)-Northants.

During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as pandemic influenza the school will seek to operate as normally as possible but will plan for higher levels of staff absence. The decision on whether school should remain open or close will be based on medical evidence. This will be discussed with the Health Protection Agency. It is likely that school will remain open but we recognise the fact that both the illness itself and the caring responsibilities of staff will impact staff absence levels. The school will close if we cannot provide adequate supervision for the children. Students will be asked to complete work at home.

INFECTION CONTROL

Infections are usually spread from person to person by close contact, for example:

- Infected people can pass a virus to others through large droplets when coughing, sneezing or even talking within a close distance.
- Through direct contact with an infected person: for example, if you shake or hold their hand, and then touch your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.

- By touching objects (e.g. door handles, light switches) that have previously been touched by an infected person, then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose without first washing your hands.
- Viruses can survive longer on hard surfaces than on soft or absorbent surfaces.

Staff and students are given the following advice about how to reduce the risk of passing on infections to others:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Minimise contact between your hands and mouth/nose, unless you have just washed your hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not attend school if you think you may have an infectious illness.

HAND WASHING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

Minimise sources of contamination

- We will ensure relevant staff have Food Hygiene Certificate or other training in food handling.
- We store food that requires refrigeration, covered and dated within a refrigerator, at a temperature of 5 C or below.
- We wash hands before and after handling food.
- We clean and disinfect food storage and preparation areas.
- Food is bought from reputable sources and used by recommended date.

To control the spread of infection

- We ensure good hand washing procedures (toilet, handling animals, soil, food)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their own noses when necessary and to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- We wear protective clothing when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)

In order to prevent the spread of infections in school we follow the guidelines set by the Health Protection Agency, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.

Detailed information about many conditions is available at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>. A summary of the most common conditions and recommended periods of absence are shown below.

If a child is unwell in school children should wait at Student Services area with adult supervision until they are collected by their parents or carers. Appropriately trained staff should use appropriate equipment such as gloves, aprons and surgical masks where required.

In the event of use during an epidemic appropriate deep cleaning of these areas should take place after use of these areas.

To prevent the persistence and further spread of infection

- Ask parents to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Remind parents not to bring a child to school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours has elapsed since the last attack.
- Staff are expected to follow the same guidance.

The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess pupils and staff before recommending further action. Individuals who are believed to have an infectious illness are sent home and are advised to contact their GP or local hospital.

Annex: COVID-19 Epidemic

Please refer to the risk assessment for the COVID-19 Epidemic.

Appendix 1: Provides specific advice

TBCS - Preventing and Managing Sickness Information for staff, visitors and building users

STAGE 2 - PREVENTION

We currently have increased precautions in place to ensure effective the prevention of the spread of illness.

All users of the building are asked to follow the following guidance:

Do

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell



Don't

- ✗ do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

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TBCS - Preventing and Managing Sickness

Information for staff, visitors and building users

STAGE 3 - MITIGATE/ DELAY

We currently have increased precautions in place to ensure effective the prevention of the spread of illness.

All users of the building are asked to follow the following guidance:

Do

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell



Don't

- X do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean**
- X enter the school if you are feeling unwell or have been in close contact with any person who is unwell (staff should contact the head teacher to discuss).**

If you think you might have coronavirus, have been to a country or area with a high risk of coronavirus in the last 14 days or you've been in close contact with someone with coronavirus ring NHS 111. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> for further details.