

Bishop Hedley RC High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Esgob Hedley

Infection Control Policy

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Infection Prevention & Control Policy

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written in line with the current guidance from Public Health Wales.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and where possible preventing, the spread of infection within the school.

PRINCIPLES

The school recognises that infections such as influenza 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.

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 an infectious illness we would immediately consult with the Education Authority, Health and the Communicable Diseases Unit and inform parents of their advice.

During an outbreak of an infectious illness such as influenza the school will seek to operate as normally as possible but will plan for higher levels of staff absence.

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.
- 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.

These messages are promoted in assemblies and through tutorials.

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
- 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 out in the 'All Wales Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Education Settings, regarding the recommended period of time that pupils should be absent from school.'

A summary of the most common conditions and recommended periods of absence are shown below.

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode
E Coli 0157	48 hours from the last episode
Typhoid	48 hours from the last episode
Shigella (dysentery)	48 hours from the last episode
Cryptosporidiosis	48 hours from the last episode

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS:

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Influenza	Until Recovered
Tuberculosis	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Whooping Cough	48 hours from commencing antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.

RASHES & SKIN INFECTIONS

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Athlete's Foot	None
Chicken Pox	Until all blisters have crusted over
Cold Sores	None
German Measles (Rubella)	4 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot & Mouth	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Ringworm	None
Roseola	None
Scabies	Pupils can return after the first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	None
Warts & Verrucae	None
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

OTHER INFECTIONS

Illness/Condition	Recommended Period of Absence
Conjunctivitis	None
Diphtheria	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Glandular Fever	None
Head lice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclusion until permitted by GP
Hepatitis B or C	None
Meningococcal Meningitis/Septicaemia	Until Recovered
Bacterial Meningitis	Until Recovered
Viral Meningitis	None
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None

To be reviewed February 2019