



INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Wellacre will provide the school community with guidance when preparing for, and in the event of an outbreak of an infection such as pandemic influenza. A checklist of actions has been devised to aid planning and preparing for an outbreak of pandemic influenza and clarifies communication procedures.

Infections are likely to spread particularly rapidly in schools and as students 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. School staff will give students positive messages about health and well-being through lessons and through conversations with students.

In the event of the school becoming aware that a student or member of staff has contracted an infectious illness, we would direct them to their G.P. in the first instance, and, if necessary, inform Trafford Local Authority,

Alternatively, they may contact the school to advise us that a student or member of staff has sought medical attention and has been diagnosed as having an infectious illness. 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 and government advice. This will be discussed with the Government's Health Protection Agency. It is likely that school will remain open, but we recognise the fact that both the illness itself and the level of interaction between both staff and students may impact staff absence levels. The school will close if lessons cannot be staffed or there is not adequate supervision for the students. Students will be asked to complete work at home or at a local library using the school website or educational websites.

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.
- If you feel ill during the day then go to the medical room. Parents will be contacted if First Aiders feel you are not well enough to remain in school.

These messages are promoted through posters around the school, in assemblies and via the school curriculum.

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

TO MINIMISE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION WE WILL ENSURE THAT:

- Relevant staff will have a Food Hygiene Certificate or other training in food handling.
- Food that requires refrigeration is covered and dated within a refrigerator, at a temperature of 5 C or below.
- Handwashing takes place before and after handling food.
- Full Cleaning and disinfecting of food storage and preparation areas takes place.
- Food is purchased from reputable sources and used by recommended date.

TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF INFECTION WE WILL ENSURE THAT:

- Good hand washing procedures are encouraged
- Students are encouraged to dispose of the soiled tissues hygienically.
- Different cloths/mops/products are kept for different areas.
- All cuts and open sores are covered.
- Catering staff wear uniforms when preparing food.
- Aprons are worn by students and staff in Food Technology lessons.
- First Aiders wear PPE when dealing with accidents. (e.g. gloves)
- A protocol is in place that is followed regarding contact with blood and body fluids.
- If a child is unwell in school, they will wait in the medical room until they are collected by their parents or carers. They are closely monitored and do not wait in communal areas.
- Staff are vigilant as to signs of infection persisting or recurring.
- Parents are instructed to keep their child at home if they have an infection, and to inform the school as to the nature of the infection.
- Parents are reminded 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.
- The school has a number of Qualified First Aiders who assess students 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.
- Risk Assessments are written as necessary and in accordance with government guidelines.